天地無用！ GXP パラダイス始動編

梶島正樹

AIC 文庫

イラスト 梶島正樹

Tenchi Muyo! GXP Paradise Shidou Hen Novel

Tenchi Muyo! GXP

Paradise Start-up Edition

Initial Plot Novel

Masaki Kajishima

AIC Bunko

Text by Masaki Kajishima

Table of Contents

Episode 1 **3**

Episode 2 **23**

Episode 3 **42**

Episode 4 **61**

Episode 5 **81**

Episode 6 **93**

Episode 1

“I’m really home.”

Seina and his crew were deeply moved as they gazed up close at Saturn.

“That’s amazing! It’s Saturn! Saturn! I can’t believe I’m seeing the cosmos up close!” Jovia, in particular, was thrilled to see the scene unfolding before her eyes.

“You did see the archive material before, didn’t you? So why freak out?”

“Seeing it up close in the flesh is what makes it special. Can't we get closer than this?”

“Not if you want to do something to Saturn's rings.”

“What? I'm not going to… do anything?” Jovia said with a big smile on her face that was clearly a lie.

“I remember Ryo-Ohki-oneechan also said that she was scolded for trying to write on one of the rings a long time ago.”

“…” Jovia was caught dead on the mark and shut her mouth.

“That was on her way back from the errand to deliver Fuku-chan to Jurai, wasn't it?”

“Yes! That was her first errand.”

“That was when she was a little girl. In her head she’s still just a little kid, you know.”

“We won't know if this is what Jovia says it is until we go back to Earth and check it out, right?”

“Well, we'll find out when we get back, won't we?”

“Yes, I know. I'm just curious to see what it's all about.”

“When my darling met me and brought me here, the situation was fixed with Seto's permission.”

“That old hag is a real pain in the ass!”

“She's not here, so I'll tell you. Next, we'll go to Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system.”

“Too bad. We're out of time. I've already sent word that we are on the way.”

“What?”

“Well, well. We're neighbors now, you can come here anytime you want.” Seina said with emotion.

“Neighbor… or…”

“Seina and Kiriko's wedding was on the dark side of the moon, wasn't it?”

“I changed with them at the house, and it almost felt we were going to a place nearby via taxi.”

“You mean the place where they finally managed to send three people after spending trillions on that government project? Well, I guess if the fuball was there, it would feel like you’re in your own neighborhood.”

“I would charge you money, though, Jovia.”

“Kuh! Lately this furball’s been harsh with me. All right, change into your fluffy form! Today’s the day I pet you all over so much that you surrender!”

Jovia and Fuku happily began to play chase around each other, while the others breathed a small sigh.

X X X

When Seina and his team arrived at the pier in the Masaki’s pond on Earth, Kai and Tenchi were waiting for them.

“Oh! My beloved and dearest friend, Seina! It’s been awhile. Haha, are you looking a bit older now?”

“You’ve aged a bit too, Kai. Well, other than that, you look the same as ever.”

“Ha-ha-ha, take a look, haven’t I become more handsome.”

“I think you mean 'flirtatious'.”

Jovia, whom he had never met before, frowned.

“Hahaha, that's what the ladies of Super Yamada often say…”

“Can I punch that playboy?”

“I'm glad to hear that everyone is okay.”

“I can't believe you're… safe after being abducted at your wedding. Well, I guess that’s just who my best friend is. Hahaha.”

“Well, I guess.”

“No matter how much time passes, you guys are still the same.” Tenchi approached with a look of dismay. “Welcome back, Seina-kun.”

“Tenchi senpai, everyone. It's been too long.”

“There’s no sense standing outside, let’s go into the house.” Rea urged Seina and the others to go into the Masaki house.

X X X

Upon returning to Earth, Seina was happy to see the Masaki's again after such a long absence.

Fuku and the others joined Ryo-Ohki and Washu, in her adult body; Seina had little Kenshi sitting on his lap.

Nayuta had transformed into a mini Nayuta and was being carried by Mihoshi.

Kenshi seemed to be in a good mood, perhaps because he was happy to see Tenchi, Ryo-Ohki, and the others enjoying themselves, or perhaps because he sensed that the atmosphere in the house was brighter than usual, and Tenchi and the others' faces were lit up.

"Now that the reunion greetings are over, I have an important announcement to make to Seina. I, Masaki Kai, am now officially engaged to Yamada Yoshiko. Of course, her parents have already given their consent."

"What? Oh, I see. That's… Congratulations." Seina had a mixed expression, but still smiled.

"So that means the Yamada family and Masaki family have concluded their son trade."

"Son trade?"

"Seina, you married Kiriko-nee, and I got engaged to Yoshiko-chan. So, we will swap rooms, and I will become Yamada Kai."

"Huh?"

"Again. I'm going to move into your house and you'll live at my house instead. The furniture has already been moved. Well, put simply: you're not supposed to get close to the Yamada estate."

"Are you saying that something happened to our business?"

"Fufufu." Then a large monitor came on.

"Our Yamada business evolution is Supermarket Yamada, and then the next super evolution is Hypermarket Yamada, aka Yamada Shopping Center!"

The monitor showed a rendering of the completed shopping center, which had a large parking area and a large sales floor area, albeit on a low level.

"H-hey! This is totally different from the plans Yoshiko showed me before!"

"That's why it's a super evolution. There have been more developments since that plan, brother."

"Yeah, but even then…"

"The opening will be in six months, but the Yamada family house has already been moved to the roof of this center!"

"Huh? Wh-why?"

"The family home happened to be smack in the middle of the land we were able to buy. Since it would be in the way during construction, it was moved to the roof of the shopping center."

"That's pretty bold of you, but doesn't it take a lot of time and money to move a house?"

“It only took a moment because Washu-chan did it for us.”

“What?”

“Kishishi.” Washu, who was holding Fuku-chan in her arms, laughed.

“You're from that town, are you okay with everything?”

“It will take time, but even Earth has that level of technology. Here.”

The newly activated monitor showed the Yamada house hanging in mid-air from the rooftop, with the steel frame of the store still in the process of being assembled. A simple elevator and pipes for infrastructure were installed.

“It's not a problem because it's made to look like civil engineering on this planet, kukuku.”

“If your parents' house is on the roof of a store, you certainly don't want to come back…”

“Ha ha ha! The mall part of the building will be home to local independent stores. Especially for those who know how Yamada used to be.”

“I guess… I don't want to interfere with business either, but…” Seina glanced at Tenchi.

“You're always welcome in Masaki village. Tsukiko-san was hoping you’d come, as well.”

“I hate to be a burden, but I appreciate it.”

“So, we're busy with work, so don't go home. I'll come back to see you again.” Kai finished his explanation and quickly left.

“He's in a hurry, isn't he?”

“He’s very busy preparing for the new store and opening the temporary store. Seina, I'd like to talk to you a little later, okay?”

X X X

Tenchi explained to Seina about Kenshi and Rea.

“R-Rea-san is …from another world?!”

“Ooh, so you came from another world, too? Then we’re the same.” In contrast to Seina's incredulity, Jovia was curious.

“I can hardly believe it.”

“Because Kiyone-dono concealed it, we only found out right before Rea-dono's wedding. Well, It was kept under heavy wraps, but then…” Washu glanced at Kenshi. “If it had been a girl, we could have put things on hold…”

“But… even then…! But doesn't that mean you’re going to send Kenshi to where Rea-san came from?”

“Of course, Tenchi-dono and the others feel the same way. But Rea-dono has had a command seal engraved in her, and to make matters worse, it also acts as the central core of her memory formation.”

“Deactivating it is hard, then?”

“I’m still investigating, but I also had to consider the situation where I have to send him over there. And so! About the weapon we’re giving to Kenshi-chan to take…”

“… Kiriko-san’s Yomotsu Wolf. When she first wanted to give it to Kenshi, Rea-san put her veto on that. By the way, the world over there is just before the graduation level of an early civilization.” Tenchi whispered in Seina's ear.

“Huh? Well, but if that thing were there, it would certainly be reassuring.” Seina was absolutely mortified by that fact.

“Right!? Then you agree, as well!”

“Um. Could it be that the world over there has as many ancient dragons as we have sparrows?”

“The last boss there has firepower on par with a GP battleship.” Tenchi added without a pause.

“How overkill can you get? That’s absurd.” Everyone except Washu nodded deeply at Seina's words.

“Well, that’s the situation, so we’re working on training Kenshi-chan’s physical abilities and body. It’s all for naught, anyway, if he doesn’t have a base level of fitness, so for the foreseeable future he’s probably going to be running around the fields and mountains with Ryo-Ohki as a playmate.”

“I see. That sounds like a great workout.”

“Well, the step after that is still in the planning phase, though.”

Rea let out a big sigh at Washu's words.

“… By the way, the main driver behind this plan is…?” Seina asked fearfully.

“Exactly who you imagined, Seina-dono, kekekeke.”

“…” In Seina's mind, Seto made a V-sign.

“Then, what’s the reason behind telling me all this in advance?”

“It's a request for your help in the future. With the way probabilities act differently around you, you can provide a lot of adaptability towards unexpected situations. Besides, considering your influence, it would be a pain if we told you at the last minute and you disagreed.”

“You could have sent me an email to …, of course I'll help you if you need it, but that's not the only reason, is it? I'm supposed to be on your side no matter what.”

“Seina, you have a lot of influence on both sides. It's a tricky line to get a majority in favor or, … suddenly talk about it and get opposition.”

“…” Seina and Tenchi looked at each other with reluctance.

“For now, please pretend I haven’t heard anything, until that time comes.”

X X X

“What? By myself?”

“These little ones and Jovia-dono will be my lab ra-, I mean, I’ll give them a physical exam. I’ll reduce Nayuta’s functionality to the lowest possible setting and transfer her personality to a temporary body.”

“So, Seina will be the only one staying at Tsukiko's house.”

“But neither Kiriko-san nor Kai will be there. I wish I could also come with you, Tenchi-senpai…” Now that he knows about life in space, he is indeed reluctant to be alone with Tsukiko.

“I do want to have you over, but my parents are in the detached house. And if you’re in Washu-san’s laboratory, you might be used as a guinea pig for some experiment.”

“Kukuku. I don't mind.” Tenchi's words brought an uneasy smile to Washu's face.

“Oh, then the Kamidake…”

“… just began maintenance a minute ago.”

Anyway, Seina was determined to rule out any other option but to stay at Tsukiko's house.

(What the heck is this…? Somebody's plotting!)

The first thing that came to his mind was Seto with a big smile on her face. Miki (in Cabbit form), who was supposed to be the most reliable person in the place, was still in Washu's arms, not making eye contact with Seina.

“Seina-chan. Either way, you should give Tsukiko a shout out upon your return. She’s really looking forward to your return.” Rea said to Seina with a straight face, and Seina gave up.

“… Yes.”

X X X

“This area hasn’t changed at all.”

Enjoying the scenery that has remained unchanged over the years, Seina headed for Masaki village. Perhaps it was because of this that he remembered the feeling of the past, and his mind calmed down.

“Anyway, nobody’s around. Did they all go to some faraway field?”

A rooster, the natural enemy of Ryo-Ohki, saw Seina and ran away in a panic, and then Tsukiko's house came into view, and in the yard was…

“Welcome home, Seina-chan!”

The same kind expression as before. But standing there was a young-looking Tsukiko who had taken off her disguise and looked as if she and Kiriko could be sisters.

“Tsukiko-san, I've returned.”

As Seina approached her, he was clearly aware of his own growth.

“I have to look up at you now. You might be even taller than Kiriko.”

Tsukiko and Kiriko were about the same height. Naturally, Seina's height had overtaken Tsukiko's.

“It looks like my growth spurt came late.”

“Fufu. Come on in. You've met Kai already, right?”

“Yes. I heard about my family… and the son trade.”

X X X

When he entered the house, he went to Kai’s room first. “This feels kind of strange, huh, to see my furniture in Kai’s room.”

“You'll get used to it. I think it's a good idea to freshen everything up, though.” Tsukiko looked around the room with Seina's old furniture.

“Even if it's old, it's still solid, and it's less dangerous to use things you're used to.”

“Fufu, yes. There's no need to rush. We can take it easy from now on.”

X X X

The two relaxed in the living room with a cup of tea. They both reached for a rice cracker at the same time.

“Oh, um,” As expected, the silence between the two of them became unbearable.

“What is it?”

“Well, come to think of it, my parents' house is in a terrible state. I think it's a bit excessive.”

Unable to get to the point, he digressed and nibbled on a rice cracker.

“Kiriko told me not to talk about it, but I think it’s fine to talk about it now. You realize the salary you get from the GP is on par with a Fleet Commander?”

“Yes, roughly. And also, that the amount I send back home is fairly high. But while it might have been enough for that supermarket, it really couldn’t suffice for that kind of shopping complex…”

“Seina-chan, due to your involvement, the Da Ruma Guild was destroyed. And now a similar thing is happening in Renza, right? Have you ever thought about what the effect of that might be?”

“I heard on the news that piracy has gone down, and that the distribution of goods has thrived.”

“It’s a notable improvement that the direct damage caused by them is gone, but what’s more significant is that there are no more disruptions during transport. Naturally, transportation costs have gone down dramatically, but it’s also been possible to save quite a lot of resources on the guard details. They’ve begun to redirect those to developing undeveloped areas.”

“…”

“In other words, the funds that were being used to prevent losses are now being used for a positive thing called Economic Development. The general populace won’t realize the change for quite some time, but it’s predicted that in a century or so, a great economic boom will happen. When the same thing happens in Renza, and then on top of that the exchange between both sides begins, what do you think the reward for you will be, given that you were the reason that this came to be?”

“Well, it's not like I did it all on my own.”

“You’re not the one to make that assessment. Kamidake’s incredible equipment and staff. And the politically motivated marriage. Just from that, you can see what Jurai and the GP are thinking, right? And even if each reward was miniscule, if Seto-sama’s accounting department lives up to its mocking ‘Hyena Department’ name and seriously hunts every bit down…”

“You mean Ringo-san’s team? That really does sound impressive.”

“The main investor and supplier of technology for the economic boom of the future will be the Galactic Academy. The ones who have the most powerful voices are Jurai and Seniwa. Seina-chan, you have the right to establish a royal Jurai household, are part of the GP, and the central figure of this to boot.”

“That’s going beyond my imagination already. And I can't really do anything about it.”

“Don't worry. Seina, you’re already a member of MMD's top level.”

“What?”

Originally an organization that managed astronomical patents for philosophers, it was now one of the highest-ranked banks in the Galactic Federation. Although it is only moderately large, membership was a kind of status symbol, a sign of a very prestigious company.

“The highest rank of membership is the same as that of a philosopher, so you need the recommendation of a certain number of people, but Washu, Ari, Seto, Mikami, and several others recommended you to the bank, so it was an instant decision. Yes, it's a new company, but it's already a very prestigious company, with a lot of credit, a lot of money, and a lot of people.”

X X X

“I'm going to prepare dinner, so why don’t you go take a bath?”

“Uh, sure.”

Seina replied in his usual tone, got up from his seat, and was about to leave when…

“… Oh.”

He remembered the situation of this house. But Tsukiko had quickly put away her teacup and disappeared into the kitchen.

X X X

“Maybe I am overthinking it?” Seina muttered as he soaked in the tub. “Aunt Tsukiko seems to be the same as when I was a kid… Though, I don’t think everything can remain the way it used to be…”

The house was a stranger's house that he knew. The bathroom had been renovated and it looked exactly the same as it did then. But Seina's height proved that he was no longer a child.

“… but I still can't fully extend my legs.”

X X X

“I’m sorry I didn’t help at all.”

When he got out of the bath and went to the living room, it was already dark outside. Dinner was ready on the dining table in front of him.

(Oh, yes. Kiriko's dexterity was a result of Tsukiko's training.)

After Seina got out of the bath, she didn't give him a chance to help her in any way. All he could do was sit there and wait for the rice and miso soup to be served.

Miso soup with daikon radish and deep-fried tofu, grilled chicken with miso, simmered potatoes and green beans, and a variety of fresh vegetables. The food on the table, though simple, was everything Seina wanted to eat.

“You can dig in!” Tsukiko looked so happy.

“Itadakimasu.”

The first thing he ate was miso soup, which he hadn't had much of since he hadn't been with Kiriko and her team in Renza.

(Oh, it tastes like my Aunt Tsukiko's).

The family ran a business, and Seina's presence would keep the customers away. Seina spent most of his time in Masaki village, where he grew up with this taste for a large percentage of his life. It was no exaggeration to say that Tsukiko's cooking was ‘my mother's cooking’.

The taste of this dish made him forget all about the embarrassment of being alone with Tsukiko. They started to eat in their usual way, and Tsukiko looked at him happily.

X X X

“Please allow me to clean up, at least. I would feel uncomfortable not doing anything at all.”

“All right, them. I'll go take a bath in the meantime.”

“Yes, please enjoy.”

He looked away from her and took the dishes to the kitchen, another place he knew very well.

“Hahaha … you're still keeping them…”

In the cupboard were Seina's old dishes, made of non-breakable materials such as wood, plastic, and metal for camping and other activities. As Seina grew older, he shifted to regular tableware, but he still used the unbreakable materials when he drank water by himself.

“Oh, I've got to make sure I don't break anything… shape scan…”

X X X

“Huh?”

With a lot of free time on his hands, he suddenly decided to go out on the porch and look at the other houses. But there are no lights on anywhere.

“No lights on in any of the houses at this time of night?”

He put on his shoes and walked outside to the street, but not a single house in the village was lit. A few road lamps told him that there was a road, and that there were traces of human life, but without them, it was pitch black, and Tsukiko's house seemed to be the whole of the world.

“…”

He took a deep breath and looked up at the starry sky. The smell of the air, the sound of the wind, the atmosphere of the place. The familiar constellations of Earth.

“… I did come home, huh?”

Then he looked toward Tsukiko's house.

“It's nice to have a lighted house, isn't it?”

That was Seina's place to return. That's what he thought.

X X X

“Hey, were you out for a walk?”

When he entered the house, he found Tsukiko after her bath.

She was wearing a yukata, the casual indoor wear yukata that Tsukiko always wore. She had probably washed her hair and was wearing a thin Japanese tenugui-like towel wrapped around her head.

“Well, uh… The other houses are dark. Did something happen?”

“Yes, everybody is staying in town today. There’s the preparation for the Yamada store and all sorts of other things to help with.”

“Oh, I see … that's very helpful.”

“Masaki Village has also invested, and besides, this is a family matter. Not to mention, this is preparation for the future.”

“Preparation?”

“In order to conceal the identity of the village, we’re going to close the road and completely cut it off from the outside.”

“Well, there is not much traffic on the village roads either.”

“The main road in the village is actually a private road, not a national or prefectural road. In the future, there are plans to close it and completely isolate Masaki Village itself.”

“What? But what about positive interaction with the outside world?”

“Positive interaction with the outside world is what this is all about. If people know who lives here, and what we do, that can be avoided… If we use the fact that Tenchi-chan's carrots are an established brand through the Yamada business, we can declare that the entire village is a large-scale experimental farm. That should suffice as a reason to not allow any outsiders in, right?”

“I see… If the reason and the result of the isolation are tangible, people won't resort to coming up with weird rumors, huh?”

“Besides, if people hear that you're living in Masaki village, nobody will want to approach it anyway.”

“Hahaha. I didn't expect to be useful in that way.”

“It’ll be perfect if you go into town occasionally to solidify the rumors.”

“I feel like I’ve become a high-ranking monster.”

The awe-inspiring presence that made people want to stay away from Masaki village. It was as if a dragon or some other monster lived there.

“Right! You learned to use magic over there, right!?” Tsukiko leaned forward with a twinkle in her eye.

“That's great, I wish I could use magic too…”

“But with all the science and technology in the universe, there's almost no need.”

“It's good because it’s magic, that's all right… Kiriko kept bragging about it all the time… So, do you say incantations? How did you learn to use it, Seina-chan?”

Her expression of curiosity was just like Kiriko's. Kiriko liked fantasy novels, and Tsukiko was also hooked on Kiriko's books.

“Speaking of which, is there any way to use magic on Earth?”

“On a magical element world, when you reach a certain age, your body forms an organ to use magical elements. In this process, the body's energy is used to the limit of its ability to sustain life. When I regained consciousness, I was so skinny that I thought I was a mummy. Well, once that organ was formed, I was ready to use magic.”

And just then, the old clock in the living room emitted a low chime that told the time.

X X X

“Um, this is…”

Seina and Tsukiko were sleeping side by side in a separate room. As expected, there were two sets of futons.

“I'd like to talk to you a little more, and Kiriko asked me to do something for her.”

“She asked you to what?”

He felt embarrassed, but at the same time nostalgic. Until he was in junior high school, it was not unusual for all of them to sleep together, including Kiriko and Kai. Even after Kiriko went to space, when she came back home, they sometimes slept while talking like this.

(Am I being too self-conscious?)

“Seina-chan, you go somewhere out of the blue and pick up strange things, or… Kiriko says that you are 'possessed' by them, but it's true that you tend to be liked by strange people anyway.”

“Yes, but … that's just …”

“But surprisingly, the other girls are amused, especially Amane.”

“Kiriko-san is the only one having a hard time… sorry I'm such a jerk…”

“If you hadn't gone to space, that would have been my grief.” Tsukiko pouted in frustration.

“What?”

“Seina-chan, what do you think would have happened if you hadn't gone into space?”

“The future? First of all, I had to make it through the day in one piece.”

“Oh, that’s true, you would, Seina-chan.”

“But yes. If I think about it normally, I would normally have gone on to higher education after graduating from junior high school, but I don't think there was any place near here that would have taken me in. If I had gone to another prefecture, it would have been a problem with where I lived. To begin with, I would have had to explain myself in advance and no one would have accepted me knowing that. I'm sure there was no place that would accept me knowing that. Either way, I'd have been kicked out early.”

“Then employment.”

“But I’m not allowed to help with my family’s business…”

“Then your place would be Masaki village. And of course, you’d live here.”

“What? Y-you’re right. That could be a choice.”

“There would be no other choice, Seina-chan, since I'd already talked to your parents and it was the consensus of Masaki village to accept you.”

“What? When did that happen?”

“It's natural for parents to think about their children's future in advance. Especially in the case of your parents, Seina-chan, it was very important. You know what happened when you first came to my house… Kiriko would know.”

“Yes, I did hear about it, but I didn't know what they talked about at…, but I did see that they went through a lot of trouble with me.”

“The difficulty of raising Seina-chan and the hopelessness of your future… people who initially sympathized with you started to distance themselves and isolate you.”

“Well, that's usually what happens. I can't blame people for what has happened so far.”

“What will isolated and trapped people think when that happens?”

“I am truly grateful for the people of Masaki village.” Seina breathed a big sigh as he realized the meaning of those words.

“The people in the village did have knowledge on how to deal with skewed probabilities, and they didn’t just pity you, they truly liked you. That’s where the concrete suggestion for your future came from, as well. Once your parents had some space in their hearts, the first thing they would think about is your future. If they didn't make concrete plans and preparations at an early stage, they would not be ready in time. We reached a consensus before the first year of knowing you had concluded.”

“That soon?

“It's as I said. Essentially, there was no choice to make…”

“That's… true.”

“So, if you had continued to live in the house… What do you think would have happened… next?” Tsukiko tilted her head and smiled mischievously.

“… Well, actually, I went to space…”

“Kiriko was already in space. Kai would soon follow. It's possible that it would be with Yoshiko-chan. But if Seina-chan hadn't gone into space, the adult relationship that led to their relationship would have taken a different form, so the connection probability was pretty low. What would have happened then?”

“I didn't know anything about it.”

“All the people in the village were very excited about conducting the ritual with Tenchi and Kai, especially Kiyone-sama.”

“My image of Aunt Kiyone is drifting in a weirder and weirder direction…”

“Now a question: What would have happened between you and me?”

“A-are you teasing me?”

“I'm still ready, you know?”

“…”

Seina turned red and stammered. “Uh, well, but, you see, as long as we're on Earth, there's a bunch of social conventions and things…”

“Either way, Seto-sama told me to do this.”

“Uhg, there is a person who crushes social conventions.”

“Guard dog Tsukiko instead of guard dog Kiriko. Going forward, a multitude of guard dogs will be dispatched to guard you from all sides.”

“In that regard, there are already quite a few people…”

“And people still get through somehow, so it's a natural precaution. I believe you had plenty of discussions with Kiriko and all the others about what your station is, and what kind of person you are.”

“I have no excuse… But I still can’t help but consider other people’s feelings.”

“In the Galactic Federation, Seto and the others were holding back, but I guess there were some people at… who had a lot to say about it.”

“It's normal on Earth.”

“But logic and common sense are only as good as the stable world that guarantees them. We don't need to worry about people who are unaware that they are protected in a safe box yard.”

“I've heard the same thing from Kiriko and others, but it's hard not to care about…”

“Yes… I am one of those who are protected in the box, but in your case, Seina, you have the power to change that. I guess only Tenchi's place can compete with the Kamidake and a first-generation tree and Hakubi Washu-sama's power… Seina-chan, you have the power to throw it all away and go anywhere in the universe if you really want to. Does it make you want to cast everything aside and run away into space?”

“Honestly, I would be lying if I said I hadn't thought about it. But… I don't want to betray someone when they said they needed me, despite how I am. Of course, I won't hesitate if no one needs me anymore.”

“Then, there is only one conclusion.” Tsukiko took hold of Seina's wrist and squeezed it tightly.

“Is… that… so?”

“At least, that's what I wish for. It was fated to happen ever since we said we were prepared to take you in.”

“Prepared? Yes, that's right. I forget that when I look at Kiriko and the girls.”

“Even Kiriko used to be…” After saying that, Tsukiko stopped speaking and breathed a small sigh.

“Kiriko-san… was working so hard that I was worried.”

“You noticed?”

“I did, but…”

“But it was a good opportunity for Kiriko to grow up, so it was a blessing in disguise, if Seina-chan hadn't gone into space, I would have been there.”

Seina smiled wryly at Tsukiko's regretful remark.

“Which… would have been better for Kiriko-san?”

“The outcome now is Kiriko's choice, and now it's like a reason for her to live.”

“Yes, a life worth living is indeed…”

“Do you still feel insecure?”

“That's…”

“Kiriko can't handle it all by herself, that's why it's a tenfold and twentyfold thing. However, just like Kiriko's four members, Karen's team and Fuku-chan's team are also working hard to help Kiriko. There is a daughter who manages a team similar to hers.”

“When it's tenfold and twentyfold, what's the point of marriage in the first place…?”

“Seto-sama is taking that into consideration. If she didn't have it under control, the crowds would be overwhelming and it would be a big problem. Even now, I hear that there are hundreds of marriage proposals coming in every day, and after the Galactic Federation, Renza also proved your usefulness, didn't it? There are a lot of people who won't be able to sleep at night after being exposed to that kind of power, unless they get married.

“Hundreds… of them, that's the real political marriage…”

“I think there is a grace period until Kiriko and the others are ready, and it's fortunate that Karen’s group are royalty there. However, you should be prepared for more to come.”

“Haa…” Seina glanced at Tsukiko.

“Of course, I'm not going to tell you what to do right away, but if you're worried about it, you can use the apartment as a sleeping place.”

“Uncle Dai's? Oh, by the way,”

“If you ask any more questions, Seina-chan, even you will get angry. You're no more than a stranger now that Kai is independent!”

“Yes, I understand.” Seina said, as he lay back down.

“Good.”

Tsukiko took a deep breath. “But you know, Seina-chan, I'm glad that the day when I can talk like this with you is coming.”

“Hmm?”

While Seina was thinking about what to say, he heard the regular breathing of sleep coming from next to him.

“You're still a good sleeper.”

(I guess that means she trusts me…)

Seina's hand remained firmly clasped.

Seina finally fell asleep, probably from exhaustion.

X X X

“…?”

It was already the next morning when Seina woke up again. What triggered this was the smell of morning rice, the same smell he had when he fell asleep last night.

“It’s not like I overslept, but I would have liked to have at least helped.”

Perhaps Tsukiko would have told him to sit up quietly, but still.

She had already collected last night's clothes and had a change of clothes ready, dressed in a T-shirt and pants, and after washing his face in the bathroom, he headed to the living room.

“…”

But what was supposed to be a blissful, refreshing morning and a delicious breakfast had turned into a sabbatical for witches.

“Good morning, Seina-dono.”

There was Seto, Mikami, Washu, and Jovia eating breakfast. It was a gathering of the super VIPs who ruled the Galactic Federation… except for Jovia.

“Kukuku, you had fun last night, huh?”

Jovia said the line she shouldn't have said with a happy expression on her face and was quickly hoisted up by Tsukiko with an iron claw.

“Ow, ow, ow! My skull will crack! I'll die and be reincarnated again!”

Seto and the others, who had been grinning as much as Jovia, quickly turned their attention back to their breakfast and began to enjoy the delicacies as if nothing had happened.

“I really wanted to say it. You basically never get a change to say that line!”

“Then you have no regrets in life, huh?”

“No, no! I haven't eaten yet! I can't die before I’ve eaten the Japanese breakfast of my dreams!”

“Tsukiko-dono, please leave it at that. Why don't you serve breakfast to Seina-dono?”

“Oh, I'm sorry.”

Tsukiko's expression changed drastically and she took her hand away from Jovia's head.

“No, it's my fault for not helping you this morning…”

The exchange in front of Seina's eyes was familiar to him from Kiriko and Jovia. So he breathed a small sigh as Jovia quickly recovered from the damage and happily began to eat her breakfast.

“Thank you very much.

Seina accepted the bowl of rice.

“Oh, yummy, yummy, yummy!”

“Jovia-san, you don't mind natto, do you?”

“My favorite! Miso soup is fine as long as it's not sweet white. Anyway, no matter how much I tried to make it look like that over there, I couldn’t get it right…” Jovia was half-crying as she gobbled down her rice.

“Natto is one thing, but nori is also surprisingly difficult to make. I went out to the sea and tried all kinds of things, and even lost most of my earnings for one piece of nori. But over there they treated me like I was eating ghetto food…”

“But if you were able to do it, why not?”

“It wasn't worth it, and it didn't taste very good either. In the end, the algae that grows densely on the rocks at the bottom of the river in the Sea of Magical Trees tasted the best, but this is it, this is what it has to taste like.”

“What's the point in crying? You also ate it on the Kamidake, didn't you?”

“Kiriko's was also excellent, but was it like a ryotei (Japanese restaurant)? I was born a commoner, so I think I'm fine with a refined meal every once in a while.”

“Oh, my God, so you don't think mine is like that?”

“No, no, no! Tsukiko's is a comfort food, like a mother's food, right? Besides, it's one of the best I've ever tasted. So don't take it away from me!”

The fact that the powerful people behind the scenes were so intimidated by Tsukiko was a miraculous sight in a private place like this.

X X X

“Don't you need a ride?”

Tsukiko handed Jovia her jacket after she had finished eating and had put on some simple makeup.

“It's just a walk up a small mountain. Besides, I want to enjoy my hometown for the first time in a long time.”

“I see. I understand how you feel.”

“I have to say goodbye to my darling for a while… Uggghhhh…”

Tsukiko's iron claw was quick to strike.

“Don't cause any trouble by cutting too loose.”

“Please don't get arrested by the police.”

“Kukuku. Maybe you’ll have another accident and be reborn into yet another world.”

“Don’t eat food off the ground.”

Seto and the others who were looking after Jovia called out to her one after another.

“Wow, that says a lot about how you feel about me. Well, I've been told similar things over there, so I guess it's okay.

By the way, Tsukiko was still holding her by the face.

“Anyway, let me know if you need anything.”

“You have a point here, don't you?”

“Don't worry, don't worry! Are you my mother?

“It was Jovia-san's daughter who was giving you that kind of attention, wasn't it?”

“I'm off, then!”

As soon as Tsukiko's hand loosened, Jovia quickly did a spirit thread transfer to gain some distance, bowed, and ran off… skipping away.

“She’s such a restless kid. I hope she doesn't have an accident.”

“Is she just too excited about this miraculous return home?”

“No, she was like that over there, too.” Seina, feeling awkward, dared to speak up when he normally would not have done so.

“Oh, really? Then you have a promising future, don't you?”

“I think she's going to be a good asset.”

“…”

“Of course, I thanked the people of Masaki village. But… I'd rather apologize for the way I used them to my advantage.

“That's my fault too, and I've caused Kiriko and the others a lot of trouble…”

“That's not a nuisance, it's a meaningful hardship, and in any case, people in Kiriko's position would have had the same burden placed on them in a different way.”

“To be honest, I'm just asking you to take care of a few things from now on.”

“What?”

"Before I go any further, …Seina, the only reason I asked you to return early is to stabilize the situation in Renza and also to protect you."

“I know it's a little late for that…”

“The enemy is not necessarily troublesome.”

“?”

“Kukuku, I remember that everything is dangerous for Seina-dono, right? That means that after defeating the Demon King, there are those who think that the heroes are the biggest threat.”

“I heard that from Tsukiko-san, too. Is it a political marriage or something?”

“That's one way, but there are also many people who want to get rid of them. It's not uncommon for a civil war to erupt as soon as the external enemies are gone.”

“When you consider what it means to have ZINV and Kamidake, it just adds to the trouble. No one on Earth is going to be able to touch them easily, and those who see them as a danger or want to use them will have to look elsewhere if Seina-dono is not right in front of them.”

“It's an opportunity to expand our interests. And there's enough of a spread outside the Galactic Federation that they'll have their hands full.”

“So, why don't you relax on Earth for a while? Either way, you're a newlywed, so it's a good opportunity, right?”

“That's very kind of you, but Kiriko and the others are still working on… and I'm concerned about the trouble they're going through.

“Thanks to you, the Da Ruma Guild was destroyed, and many of its members went to Balta. Most of the others were absorbed as ordinary citizens. But while it’s a small fraction, there are some who are refusing to be affiliated with any place.”

“While it’s a small fraction, the organization was gigantic, so there are still a good number of them.”

“In addition to the Galactic Federation, Renza Federation, Da Ruma and the other pirates, there are other nations that have unofficial civilian relations with some of them… It will take time for them to unite, and even if they did, they would still only hold a little less than 70% of the territory of the great prehistoric civilizations.

“So there are still other Federation states in the galaxy?”

“Not on that scale. Either way, we need to put the Galactic Federation on a firm footing before we can negotiate with Renza and move forward. It would be a problem if they collude with outside forces and cause chaos, and it would be unreasonable to remove those who are still civilians, even if they are on probation.”

“What does this Da Ruma remnant have to do with this story?”

“At present, Earth is a planet with an early-stage civilization, but with First Empress of Jurai Funaho-sama, Tenchi-dono and you, Seina-dono, it has quite a special situation. Well, put bluntly, if we just go by the combat forces on Earth, to be honest, it could go up against Jurai or Seniwa. Hehehe.”

“For now, it’s being treated as a sanctuary by Jurai, but when it does get incorporated into Jurai in the future, the power balance is going to be obliterated. Even now, the royal family’s ships have all sorts of restraints put on them. That's why the idea is for Earth be its own independent nation.”

“Including the remnants of Da Ruma?”

Seto smiled at Seina's question.

“Even if it's… will the other side be satisfied?”

“Even if it is, will it convince them? But the problem is that they are a group of 20 or so Guilds of various sizes, so they need to settle their own internal rankings before they can be consolidated into a nation.”

“Ranking pirates? I don’t think there’s any way to discuss that.”

“Of course, we can't let them have a battle that would burn up their people, and if it escalated into an all-out war, it would be the opposite of what we want.”

“So they’ll fight each other on Earth…?”

“Yes. A battle with Guardians from three generations ago.”

“On Earth, they’ll be completely isolated, any unnecessary interference from the outside can be blocked, and surveillance and rules can be thorough. For the pirates, the fact that they are superior to their opponents in any way is important.”

“But where on Earth would you put up such a fight? The royal ships are out, so what would work is inside Kamidake’s subspace…”

“Even though it’s a limited number of people, in total it’s still a big group. And at present, we cannot authorize their entry into a place that’s still classified as top secret.”

“Besides, Earth is an early-stage civilization.”

“That's why we’re building it. In a place where nobody can see it or interfere.”

With that, Seto began whispering to Washu and Mikami.

“Aare you almost done with your story?”

Tsukiko, the hunter who was supposed to be chasing Jovia, peeked out from behind a shoji screen in the earthen floor. It's an act she would never normally do.

“Well, I think… is done notifying me…”

“Really?!”

The four Fukus and Nayuta emerged from under Tsukiko, looking as if they couldn't wait to get there.

“Seina!”

They all rushed into the room.

Episode 2

Sudden change?

“Haaa!”

Tsukiko chased after Jovia and stroked her slightly disheveled hair as she walked toward her house. Then a small bus pulled up alongside, and a villager from Masaki village emerged from inside.

“Yesternight was fun, eh?”

As soon as he said that he was dragged inside, like a victim in a horror movie, and the sound of blows was heard.

“Tsukiko-chan, has Seina-chan changed much?” Saying this was an elder Masaki woman who showed up instead.

“Yes, he’s grown quite tall and seems more mature.”

“I see… I guess that's true since he and Kai-chan are the same age. Well, we'll have a welcome party for him at noon, so we’re all looking forward to that.”

After saying this, she pulled her face out of the window and the bus started running again, and Tsukiko bowed and looked away.

“Tsukiko!”

And with a tremendous rush, the humanoid Fuku came running toward her. She hugged Tsukiko and started rubbing her cheeks against her.

“Ah! Welcome home, Fuku-chan. Thank you for all your hard work.”

Besides Fuku, Miki, Kirche, D, and Nayuta are also there.

After Fuku, who was satisfied with her hug, let go of her, Tsukiko went up to Miki and hugged her gently.

“Welcome home, Miki-chan.”

“I'm back, mother.” Miki was a little confused, but she let Tsukiko take care of her.

“You all look good though. Are you maybe Nayuta-chan?” Tsukiko looked at each of the others and finally caught sight of Nayuta.

“It’s nice to meet you, Tsukiko-sama.”

“Please don’t be so formal. Anyway, you’re totally different from his previous NB.”

“That was a because that was a perverted NB Airi-san used for her peeping after Amane-san uploaded some weird character software. Well, if anything, she’s a bit closer to Washu-san personality.”

“Oh, is that so? Well, I'm used to being assaulted by Seto-sama and Jovia at the crack of dawn, so I won’t be startled unless it’s something major.”

“Well, after what happened, you know.”

“Should I have a more severe personality to stand out?”

“It’s severe enough that you’re following Seina-kun around.”

“For Seina-san's mental stability, It would be best if you remain more normal…”

D nodded his head, unusually at Kirche's words.

“The fact that an install type NB has an astral is already not normal, but that should be fine.”

“There's one more, namely ZINV-chan.”

“Seina-chan’s humanoid robot?”

“I guess bringing her down to Earth might actually be too much. Let’s have Seina-kun make the call on that one.”

“Hey, Tsukiko, is Seina still talking to her mom and the others?

“Let's see, why don’t we take a peek?”

Tsukiko couldn't help but say at the sad look on Fuku's face.

X X X

“Were you being good at senpai's?” Seina asked as he patted Fuku, who hugged him sweetly.

“Yes, I played lots and lots with Ryo-Ohki-onnechan and Kenshi-chan.”

“I see, that's great.”

“Meanwhile we were being forced to be Mihoshi-san’s and the others playthings.” Miki looked a little fed up.

“I mean Ryo-chan in her cabbit form is brutally cute. If there were a bunch of cabbits lined up… not getting excited is impossible.” Tsukiko smiled as she scrunched her forehead.

“Well, that level of excitement was just…”

“…” D's body was shaking slightly.

“When we left to come here, Mihoshi-san was bawling like mad.”

“’Please don’t go’, she was crying so hard.”

“It would be very difficult if Mitoto and Mihoshi were to come together like that. Well, based on my experience, there’s no choice but to release some pressure periodically.”

“Noike-san also asked us to come by as much as possible.”

“Fufu.”

Tsukiko, who was cleaning up the tea, smiled. “Compared to before you left, you really seem to have grown more comfortable in your skin.”

“Huh?”

“It's the same at Tenchi's place, but Seina-chan, you’re still nervous when you’re with me, right? It makes me a bit jealous.”

“W-well…” Seina stuttered and everyone stared at him.

“A bunch of things are difficult around this age…” D murmured.

“I mean even if it’s just Kiriko-san and the others, the pressure is quite high. It’ll probably take some time to get used to that sort of thing.”

“By the way, Miki-chan, what are your guys’ plans while you stay here? If it’s just beds, I think we can make arrangements here.”

“We talked about this with Tenchi and decided to wait until after everyone has returned. With Seina-kun’s spirit thread line they can return at any time, but until the problem over there is somewhat settled, we can’t make any hasty moves.”

“Spirit thread line, is that magic?”

“Yes, according to Washu-san, it’s something that happens when you use magic in a certain type of elevated hyperspace. What Miki-senpai mentioned is a long-distance transport that connects two fixed points.” Seina said as he produced a ball of light and placed it in motion.

“When the magic user is controlling the spell, a line connects the user and the spell with a line that normal people can’t see.”

“So, it's like a wired remote control. But how far can it reach?”

“In theory there is no limit. However, even though travel inside the line is instantaneous, the movement of the points themselves is quite slow. Also, fixed points consume a certain amount of energy if they are left running.”

“It's not that convenient, is it? But couldn’t Kiriko and the others leave in an instant if they wanted to?”

“But we have Kiriko's MIzuki, so we are going to make it appear here via a point outside the solar system, just to be safe.”

“Still, considering you're coming back from Renza, right? There are also Seto-sama’s orders, so it’s best to wait until everyone’s got some room to breathe.”

X X X

Banjō Island “Seina-chan, congratulation on your safe return!”

The main members of Masaki Village had gathered at the meeting hall for a lunch to celebrate Seina's safe return.

“I'm glad to hear you're doing well. Besides, I've been working on…”

Akie glanced at Tsukiko, “I've heard about it, but you're really an adult.”

“My body got bigger, but I'm still the same on the inside.”

“Being able to say things like that means you’re an adult.” The other ladies called out to him.

“Hahaha… I’m really grateful that you organized this celebration, but with Kiriko-san and the others still being over there…”

“Once things have calmed down, it would be better for those cleaning up if you pull them out quickly.” Akie said, something that struck a chord with Seina as he laughed.

“You’re right. When I’m around, it just piles on extra burdens.”

“Yes, but even on your way home you got loaded with work by Seto-sama.”

“After all, it’s so typical of Seina-chan to attract burdens no matter where he goes.”

“Speaking of burdens, I heard you picked up an interesting girl.”

“At her age, calling her a girl would be incorrect.”

Seina and the others did not mention that she was divorced and had a child.

“She barged in with Seto-sama this morning, scarfed down three bowls of rice, and then charged out again. She’ll be back in a few days, so please feel free to make her your toy then.”

“Tsukiko-chan is uncharacteristically irritated. Well, if it’s someone Seto-sama likes, I can already imagine it, but what’s she really like?”

“She’ll probably get along with Airi-sama.”

“I see, that's great. I see. Looks like the village will get livelier. Well, we'll have fun with that girl later. First we have to decide what your lives here in the village will look like.”

“We are waiting for Seto-sama's order and Kiriko and the girls haven’t returned yet, so I think it will be tentative.”

“It's something that can be resolved within the village, so you don't have to think about it in such detail. We can deal with it as we see fit. But we need to make sure that everyone in the village is on the same page, and we also need to inform Seina's parents of the approximate rules and regulations.” Akie looked around at the villagers as she said this, and they all gave a small nod.

“Okay.”

“So, I think you’ve already heard it from Tsukiko-chan, but it’s been decided to seal off the village and cut off external traffic. Of course, there are a few people from Earth in the village as well, like Kasumi-chan’s husband. Masaki Shrine will also be getting regular visitors as well, so it’s not complete isolation.”

“Well, if that's the case, it won't matter if we put up full-fledged barrier after the lockdown.”

“I heard of plans to build some sort of experimental farm?”

“Yes, the plan is to make it the Yamada Store’s flagship product. And if we make the reason for your return that your company transferred you, it’ll probably look decent for you.”

“At this point, I don't really care what people think about me, but for Masaki Village…”

“’At this point’ right back at you.”

“Of course, when there is nothing going on, I would be happy to help you at Tenchi's place or in the village, as long as it does not interfere with my work.

“The matter of skewed probabilities should be no issue if we’re with you, right?”

“Seina-chan, your family actually wants Miki-chan and the girls to help with the store. Last time, Amane-san and the others were really popular.”

“What about Kiriko-san and the others then?”

“The store is going to be quite big, so we need all the help we can get. You guys stand out and are perfect for attracting people. Well, that's still in the future. First we should talk about where you guys will stay.”

“For now, we can manage at Tsukiko's house.” Seina turned to Miki and the others.

“Well, to be honest, we don't take up that much space anyway. And we have the Kamidake for our personal belongings.”

“As I said before, while it’s not many, there are a few normal people in the village. So we do need to have some sort of plausible explanation. Kids would be no issue, but five adult women are a different story.”

“Oh, I see. If you have a lot of belongings that would not fit in that house, it will make you look suspicious.”

“And if we consider the village’s customs, Kiriko-chan is now a member of the main Masaki house, while Seina-chan is in the position to establish a new royal family.”

“So, you’re saying that staying in Masaki Village itself is a problem if we consider their standing.”

Akie nodded at Tsukiko's words. “Actually, when it was decided that you would come home, Katsuhito-sama brought up the idea that you could build a house near Tenchi-chan’s house.”

“Near senpai’s house?”

Well, that would make keeping secrets easier, so it’s basically decided. Of course, none of the details have been worked out yet. I mean it’ll be either Katsuhito-sama or Nobu-chan who will actually settle this with you.”

“I understand, sorry for causing so much trouble.”

“That’s enough complicated stuff for now. Why don’t you tell us about all the things that happened over there?”

At that moment, the villagers started asking questions.

“By the way, Tsukiko-chan…” Akie moved away from the noise and quietly approached Tsukiko. “At this point, don’t you think there’s no need to hold back for Kiriko-chan’s sake anymore?”

“What do you mean by hold back?” She looked away from Akie.

“I don't know what kind of girls Seto-sama is going to have Seina-chan marry in the future. But we all think that the only one who truly understands Seina-chan is you.”

“In the past that might have been true, but Kiriko has developed quite a lot. Besides, she has had a lot more contact with him since he went to space.”

“Kiriko-chan has her duties as the first wife, and as a member of the Jurai royal family. The current situation is a perfect example of that, isn't it?”

In the past, the Kiriko and her team would have returned, but they still have work to do, such as negotiating with Renza.

“That is… true”

“You know where we stand and what we need to do, don't you, Tsukiko? Kiriko-chan and her team are official, but for someone in Seina-chan's position, he’ll definitely need consorts too. Considering that they’re traveling with Seina-chan now… Miki and the others must be candidates for the job.”

Tsukiko's gaze turned to Miki and the others, and her expression clouded over. “But those girls are still young and don't meet Seto-sama's criteria to be consorts.”

“Of course, they'll send someone to assist you. Still, people who know Seina-chan well and can fill any gaps will be necessary. Miki and her team are still inexperienced for that…”

“……”

“Kiriko is in the front and Tsukiko is in the back. You two are mother and daughter, but Kiriko-chan has more of a temper than Tsukiko, and when it comes to Seina, she's like a police car with a siren. I'm sure you'll be fine.”

Tsukiko breathed a small sigh at Akie's words.

“That's the theoretical part of it at least. So, how was it last night? I honestly won’t buy ‘we slept separately, and nothing happened at all’.”

“W-well, that's… nothing happened…”

“So you don't deny it”

“Ugh!”

“I've known you since you were born. I know your character, Tsukiko. I've seen you mess up because of it. I can read you like a book.”

“……”

“I understand that you are holding back for Kiriko-chan, I worry that you’ll lose your chance to get in if you wait too long.”

Tsukiko's shoulders slumped in disappointment at Akie's words, as if she too had such a premonition.

“Or, is it… that you still see him as a little boy? I personally think he’s become quite handsome in the time he’s been away, don't you?”

“His hands… are bigger than mine now…”

“Well, I suppose it’s all fine then.” Akie nodded broadly in satisfaction when she saw her turn bright red and look down.

X X X

After the welcome party was over, Seina and the others returned to the house and began to set up Miki and the girls' arrangements.

"Yeah. It's all coming together nicely."

The room was located on the second floor, which had a vaulted ceiling. The ceiling of the room was the same shape as the roof, and even D, the shortest person in the room, could look out the window. The windows were small and the ceiling was dimly lit even during the day.

The room was almost the same size as the entire first floor, making it the largest room in Tsukiko's house.

It was originally used as a storage room, but it had been cleaned up and all the stuff had already been moved. The tatami mats were old, but brightly colored carpets have been placed on them, and the lighting had been changed from small incandescent lamps to LED lights. The furniture was old paulownia chests, but the cushions placed here and there were new.

What was most unusual were the four boxes of various shapes and colors. The boxes were decorated and looked a bit like dollhouses. The boxes were arranged at different heights, creating a sort of cat tower.

"You can't see them from the outside, so you don't have to worry that someone will accidentally see you transform."

As was typical in a rural village, the shoji screens of the houses were open so that one could see inside. In such a place, if one were to accidentally transform, she might be seen from the outside. Of course, there were only a few earthlings in the village, but children were treated as earthlings until they had completed the coming-of-age ceremony, so it was always better to be safe than sorry.

"We'll have to use this place as an alibi while we're in Masaki village."

"Now that you mention it, the area near Tenchi-sensei's house is ideal."

"Nayuta, you're fine with a regular futon, aren't you?"

"I don't need to sleep, so if I don't have to, this body will go into Seina's spirit line storage, and if I have some other work to do…"

"What is your body made of?"

"At first it was a kind of force field body with a magically generated metal skeleton and a magic crystal core, but now Washu-san has modified it and it into a living organism like Fuku except for the skeleton and core."

"We don't really need to sleep or eat much either, so we are almost the same."

"Well, why don't you do the same as Miki and the girls? If there is a need, we will ask for your help then."

"I understand."

“But still…” Tsukiko looked at the cat tower house with interest. “Being able to turn into a cat must be so nice. Even the cushions are king-sized beds, and you can fully stretch out in a box this size. It's like an amusement park in a regular room, isn't it?”

“You’re right, it does feel quite luxurious. I'm used to it now, so it's not that big of a deal, but at first I really enjoyed it. Our bodies are incredibly limber, and our physical abilities are through the roof.”

“I catch myself lazing about in Cabbit form all the time.” Kirche looked a little embarrassed.

“Cabbit, best.”

“Well, I guess D’s the one who enjoys that form the most. But if you leave her be, she does get close to becoming a decoration for real…” In Miki's mind's eye, she sees Kiriko moving the still Cabbit D, cleaning underneath her, and putting her back in place again.

“Tsukiko, Tsukiko! I am so happy that I am able to turn human because then I can talk to Seina and stuff.” Fuku was all smiles.

“Right. Because you started out as a Cabbit, right Fuku-chan?” Tsukiko hugged Fuku and patted her on the head. Fuku also rubbed herself against Tsukiko happily.

“Well, I think it’s time for baths and dinner. Speaking of which, are you guys okay with Japanese food? Is there anything you can't eat?”

“Kiriko-san has introduced us to the basics, so there shouldn’t be a problem with it. We’re used to rice and miso soup, natto is fine too.”

“Curry is the best.” D looked unusually excited.

“Oh?”

“Surprisingly, D was fine with Japanese food in general from the very beginning.”

“Now that I think about it, I remember hearing that in the great prehistoric era, there was a parallel Earth where D’s original lived. Was there Japanese food there too?”

“Apparently it was quite similar to this world. It even had people that were similar to us…”

“Mitsuki, Mitsuki, Yayoi.” D pointed to each of them in turn.

“Apparently there’s a link to the astral sea, and Kiriko-san’s Japanese food felt strangely nostalgic.”

“Kiriko was quite surprised how easily everyone got used to it.”

“Then let's make curry tonight.”

X X X

While dinner was being prepared and the curry was simmering… The bathroom was the size of a normal house, so the girls split up into several groups to bathe. Miki and Kirche, Fuku and Tsukiko, D and Nayuta, and Seina finished up alone. When the curry was simmering nicely, everyone went to dinner.

“I made it today with ingredients from the village, how do you like it?”

“It's a normal curry, it's delicious, I like it…” D seemed pleased.

“What about the others?”

“D prefers home-style dishes like this to the more authentic ones, and Kiriko-san complained that it’s ‘not worth cooking for her’. I like both though.”

“I like carrots in chunks.”

“I like it when it’s not too spicy, so this is just right.”

“I am linked with Seina-san's memories, so…”

“Could I have another helping please?” Seina held his plate out with a big smile on his face. In other words, Nayuta was also satisfied.

Seeing this, Tsukiko also returned a big smile.

X X X

Then it was off to bed. Seina was alone today, and Nayuta and the Cabbit girls were upstairs. And today, Tsukiko is with them.

Tsukiko looked enviously at the Cabbit girls as they lay in their respective cat houses.

“So, Tsukiko, are you going to be Seina's wife too?” Fuku asked, smiling, as she emerged from the cat house.

“!”

Miki and Kirche looked at Fuku, then turned to look at Tsukiko.

“Why are you asking?”

“Mom was talking about it with the others.”

“So, not immediately, but in the future that will probably happen. But are you guys fine with that?”

In a way, this was what she wanted to hear the most.

“Well, we’ve talked about this subject several times. In the end, if you want to be in a relationship with Seina-kun, you need to be prepared to deal with his special trait. Mother, you probably know this well, but dealing with that trait, and supporting him with just one person is absolutely impossible. After the Federation it was Renza. The scale of things that Seina-kun causes is getting bigger and bigger.” Miki then

became clearly discouraged. “Especially now that those old ladies are arranging the pieces for that… That’s why we can’t have enough people to support him, especially people we can really trust. That was our conclusion.”

“And as a wife?”

“People who can’t figure out their emotions won’t even get close to him to begin with. In that sense, maybe we’re all here because we ought to be here?”

“If anything, I think it’s Seina-san who hasn’t been able to make up his mind,” Kirche added.

“Kiriko is like that too. She's so caring that it's almost depressing.”

“Maybe it's her personality? In any case, I don't think I have to hold it in because Amane-san and her team are giving me a good vent. With Karen-san’s support, the only problem children are Amane-san and Gyokuren-san. Besides, the problems are only in their personal lives; in terms of work, they are all top-notch.

“Well, we still have a lot to learn in terms of work.”

“Thanks to Nayuta's presence, things are a lot better.”

“Thank you. I'm happy to hear you say that.”

“It would have been best if you had stopped Jovia.”

“That was a force majeure.” Nayuta's shoulders slumped visibly.

“Umm, I like Jovia. She’s funny.”

“In Fuku-chan's case, she's interesting as a toy.”

“Miki, you're getting way off topic.”

“Oh, yes, you're right. Well, I know I'm a bit numb in some ways, but as far as I'm concerned, I'd be happy if you were to become one of us. Especially when I get this sense of relaxation from Seina-kun, one that’s different from when Kiriko-san is around.”

“I thought so too. Kiriko-san is the central figure for us, but the team’s getting bigger and bigger… I can’t quite put my finger on it, but it feels like something’s not quite balanced.”

“I kind of get what Kirche is saying. I guess we’re the ones who are supposed to alleviate that, but we don’t have anyone who could be the main pillar.”

“Exactly. I feel that we are not mature enough to take on that role, and more importantly, no matter how much time passes, it still feels like something’s missing.”

“Seina-chan is so lucky. In the past I could never have imagined that there would be so many people who care for him lie this.”

“Right there. The gap we can’t ever fill is that history.”

“If you all just spend more time with him…”

“It’s his special trait that won’t give us that time, right?”

“…” Tsukiko involuntarily sighed at Miki's comment. “Huh. I’m not sure how I feel about a young girl being that philosophical.”

“A natural consequence of being with Seina-kun. He’s the incarnation of absurdity… I’m impressed that he managed to survive and grow up.”

“We even heard that the underlings of Airen-san, who were assisting us over there, got incredibly resilient to stress.”

“Mom praised me and said that I've developed so much.”

“Me too.”

Fuku had a big smile on her face, while Nayuta giggled a little.

“Fu…”

“Actually, there was a lot of talk at Tenchi’s about what would happen last night.” Miki was a little puzzled, “However, Tenchi thought it would be difficult for you right now. That’s why we decided not to talk about it… Well, we won’t discuss this until you make a decision.”

Miki looked at all their faces. Fuku looked a little awkward, the others gave small nods, and D, still in her box, only raised her hand in agreement.

“Thank you, I understand how you guys feel now. I have to make up my mind before someone orders me to.”

Tsukiko chuckled and closed her eyes. Miki and the others retreated to their respective cat houses. The frogs croaked outside, and the night was drawing to a close.

X X X

The next morning, everyone woke up before dawn.

“Miki, why don't you go back to sleep?” Tsukiko had a mother's expression on her face, a complete change from last night.

“We don't need as little sleep as Nayuta, but we don't need that much sleep either. Well, we can sleep as much as we want, but when we're with Seina-kun, it's rare for us to be able to sleep properly.”

“I'm sure that won't be the case here.”

“Well, since we are going to live in Masaki Village, we thought we should try to adjust to the cycle here. Besides, this feeling of getting up early in the morning, as I did when I was a hunter-adventurer in Renza, is very pleasant.”

“I understand, I guess the adventuring family business is an early morning operation.”

“Unless you're hunting a very special kind of demon, the basic rule is that you go to work before dawn and return before dark. If I have to work the next day, I'll probably go to bed before 9:00 p.m.”

“I see. Then you'll get a taste of what it's like to live here.”

X X X

Miki and her team were dressed in the same type of jackets used by the GP's cleaning department. It was a rather plain type of light gray and wisteria, but as expected, Miki and the girls look fashionable in it.

A basket containing agricultural tools, a wheelbarrow, and a plastic collection container.

Farmers work hard early in the morning. There were many tasks that are best done early in the morning, before sunrise.

A surprising number of villagers came out, Miki and the others noticed them from afar and waved to them.

Early mornings were mainly spent managing water in the rice fields and harvesting crops. Monitoring the fields you’re interested in, checking the condition of the crops, and harvesting what looks like it can be harvested. In Masaki Village, the rice fields were shared by the village, and each family grew their own crops.

“Basically, in Masaki Village, we are subsistence farmers, so there is very little shipping work. Rice is shared by the village, but each person plants a variety of vegetables and fruits and divides them among the villages. We are self-sufficient in eggs, chicken, and even fish from Tenchi's pond.”

While harvesting eggplants, Tsukiko explained more.

“If you put anything you don't use at home in a container and leave it in a designated place, a car will pick it up. They store it at the village collection point, so if you don't have enough, you can stock up there. For other daily necessities, you can go shopping, or you can ask Yamada Shoten to deliver it. If you need something urgently, you can borrow it from a neighbor, and if it's something from the Academy, you can have it delivered.”

“It looks like there’s nothing missing from life here. But how do you earn money on Earth?”

“The people from Earth are employed at companies, and there’s an Earth company that’s run from Masaki Village as well. Of course, in order to keep up appearances, we do export some of the produce.”

“Oh, that's the stuff we used to sell at our family store.”

“Right now, we have a small corner where we sell our own products. Tenchi-chan's carrots are so popular that some people in the village are really serious about them.”

“Are you serious? I guess it has something to do with Washu?”

“It's just a trial run. In any case, we’re going to be sealed off under the pretense of running an experimental farm, so we’ll have to do something that fits that concept.”

“By the way, when we stayed at their house, they served us a carrot pound cake as a snack, which was excellent.”

“We also have plans for processed products. Yoshiko-chan is very enthusiastic about that, and we are working with Noike-san and Sasami-chan to create special products that are not available in ready-made products.”

“I hope she’s not bothering them.”

“It’s ok. Sasami-chan is also very enthusiastic about it, and what she's going to serve at Tenchi's house can be used as a first-class product, so it's just a matter of production volume, she says.”

“Kiriko-san is the same, but home-cooked food is not at the same level… Because of being used to it, I have become picky and it's difficult to eat out… Oh, of course, mother's cooking is delicious too, isn't it?”

“I'm pretty confident about her cooking, since she and Sasami share the same master, but I'm not sure I can do that level of dessert. But I can't do that level of dessert. But I've had enough of it, so let's go home and have dinner.”

The next thing they knew, it was almost eight o'clock. They loaded up the containers, moved them to a small, covered storage shed, and headed back to the house.

Miki and the others began to cook in harmony, while Seina maintained and cleaned up the farm equipment.

“Seina-kun, your food is ready.

“Ok.”

The familiar morning breakfast begins.

“Curry will be ready for lunch.”

The smell of curry was indeed too strong for a Japanese breakfast, so Tsukiko admonished her.

“I know. I'm looking forward to the overnight curry.”

Kiriko seemed to have told her that too, and D nodded in agreement.

“But still, it's really okay, isn't it?”

Tsukiko looked impressed as Miki and the others poured raw eggs and natto over their rice. “If it weren't for this stringiness, I guess.”

X X X

After breakfast, there was more farm work.

“Excuse me, I'm going to help Tenchi senpai.”

“Take care.”

After seeing Seina and Nayuta off, Tsukiko and the others went to the other side of the road.

“There are fewer people here than in the morning.”

As expected, there were not as many people as in the early morning.

“It looks that way because we see people who only help with the harvest in the early morning and then go to work, or people who go to the fruit fields on the mountain slopes, or various other things.” Tsukiko pointed to the southern slope of the mountain, where people could be seen through the trees.

“Some people grow fruit as a hobby, but peaches and grapes are the main things they ship. The rest is consumed in the village or at Sasami-chan's place.”

“By the way, I saw incredible amounts of fruit being brought to the Masaki house.”

“In return, incredible amounts of sample products are sent back to the village. And since those are all things worthy of being served at a royal dinner, everyone’s putting their soul into the farm work. In more ways than one.”

“I see.” Miki involuntarily touched her stomach. That is, for the purpose of delicious sweets and for weight loss.

The village collection point was on the edge of the village, opposite Tenchi's house. It was a rather large old wooden warehouse with an opening large enough for a medium-sized truck to fit inside.

“Oh, Tsukiko, have you come to help us?”

Inside were, a bunch of middle-aged women.

“We wanted to show Miki-san and the others what we do in the village.”

“Well, that's very kind of you.”

Miki and the others worked under the guidance of the older ladies, some sorting the produce into plastic bags for sale at the store and putting barcode stickers on them, some boxing and stacking peaches for shipment, some putting vegetables in cartons for a restaurant order, and some managing the order book on a computer.

“Are you sure you want to keep what's in those little containers?” Miki asked as she looked at the different colored containers, each about the size of a small tangerine box.

“That's what the people in the village ordered. The houses that do outside work order what they need the day before, and we deliver it to their houses. The availability of each day's produce is different, so those who can afford it come here and buy what they want.”

“I heard that you share what you get in the village?”

“We buy it with points. Anything more than that is either money or help in the village. Well, as long as you don't exceed the limit many times over, it's pretty reasonable. After all, we have a large time freezer here.”

“How many times over the limit is… really appropriate.”

“But I'm used to being pushed around at village events and such.”

“I'm used to being worked hard.”

“I'm used to it. That's what happens when I'm with Seina, isn't it?”

They felt like they were a part of the village.

After that, they took a break and went back to the collection point.

“I’ve got some snacks from Sasami-chan.”

“Oh, yes, I see. Can you send them over here, please?”

Seina took out long, stacked boxes without lids, called banju, from his spirit thread storage. They were about 10 centimeters high. Four sets of banjyu, each about one meter long and stacked four high, were placed on the desk.

“Don't tell me that's…”

“It's the three o'clock snack. It's for the whole village, but it's been like this every day lately.”

“I'm not surprised because I've seen Kiriko's full range of skills, but…”

Kirche and Miki look at each other with straight faces.

“We'll have to work hard to burn it all off.”

X X X

In the afternoon, the shipment of peaches was at its peak, so the harvested peaches were brought in one after another and packed into boxes. Seina and Nayuta help with the harvest.

Then it was time for their three o'clock snack. Seina and his team split up to deliver the snacks to the various locations in the village, and then returned.

“Thank you for your hard work. Then we'll have a snack, too.

After distributing them to the various places in the village, there were still four layers of banjyu left.

“That's a lot of food, I can't believe they do this every day.”

“Oh? I’ve got a whole freezer full of the ones I didn’t finish.”

“What?”

“Seina-chan, you guys are young, you should eat well.”

“What?”

“I give some to the kids who work outside the house, but even so, the freezer is slowly growing into a mountain. Ahaha.”

The women of the village smiled brightly, as if they had given up, or had been divided, or had been swept away by their thoughts.

“Well, we can hold as much as want in the freezer.”

“It's a pretty big freezer, but it's not infinite, you know? We're going to be importing a lot of stuff from space, so we want to keep as much capacity open as possible.”

“Then Washu can help you out at…” Seina, remembering the mess in Washu's storage facility, paused.

“These are food, right? Well, I'd like to eat as much of it as possible without it dying, and more importantly, it's a prototype for the store, so I'd like to get some feedback.”

“The Sword Saint would probably be pleased, but he's only going to say, 'it's good,' and his daughter would never eat it. I think I'll send it to Souren-san's staff for now, right?”

“Oh, that might be a good place for them. Many of them are very serious people, so I'm sure they will send you their impressions as well.”

“Anyway, I'll pick up the excess.”

“That would be great.”

“How many… do you have?”

“More than we can sell.”

Seina was stunned by the chest-size storage cases that come out one after another, and put them into spirit thread storage.

X X X

Seina continued to deliver food orders, work in the fields and rice paddies, and returned home at dusk.

“How was your day in the village? It varies a little, but it's pretty much always like this.” Tsukiko asked as she served cold tea to everyone.

“Physically, it wasn’t a problem at all. Once we get used to it, we’ll find ways to optimize our time, so I think we’ll be able to split up the tasks.”

“I’m grateful that you’re helping with the housework as well. I can have dinner ready in a minute as well.”

“Could we wait a bit longer with that?” Miki looked around at Kirche and the others.

“Those snacks were crazy.” Fuku looked a little confused.

“Then let’s do that a bit later then. Seina-chan, was everything ok at Tenchi-chan’s?”

“Yes. According to Washu-san, the corrective effect of the girls is effective to about my parents’ place. She said that as long as Nayuta or Tsukiko is in the village, it shouldn't be too much of a problem.”

“I see, then it should be fine for you girls to go help out in the store as well.”

“The only problem will be Jovia-san.”

“Well, she should just be forcibly worked to the bone. I mean, she is randomly competent for some reason.”

“I think she and Kai and Yoshiko seem to get along well.”

“Well, Yoshiko is one thing, but Kai is another. I think it's dangerous.”

“Jovia-san… I wonder what she's doing over there right now.”

X X X

Seina and the girls began helping out in the village and Tenchi's fields, and life began to get really laid back. A few days of peace and quiet followed.

“How are Miki and the others holding up?”

Tenchi and Seina were having tea in the shade of a tree, taking a break from working in the fields.

“Yes, everyone’s being nice, and they’ve gotten used to the village’s tasks. But more importantly, I was worried that Yoshiko might be bothering you.”

“Well… about that…”

Tenchi realized what Seina was trying to say.

“But you know, Sasami-chan is quite excited, too. She’s having a ton of fun. She's having so much fun that even Aeka can't say anything.”

“Hahaha… That’s good to hear.”

“We feel responsible for this, but we used to rely on Sasami-chan to do most of the housework. Since Noike came, things have gotten a bit better. And while it’s not quite as intense as with you, we also had a lot of stuff happen… There weren’t really many opportunities to play with my friends from Middle School.”

“I understand. I put Kai into a similarly tough situation.”

“Well, things have calmed down a lot, Ryo-Ohki is now able to help properly, and Rea-san is here too. It seems like it's fun to do things with Yoshiko-chan. My friend from junior high school also joined in. Thank you.”

“That's true, it's hard to say… Considering the quantity and quality, I hope we can sell it even though it's a prototype…”

“Yoshiko wants to make it a hidden gem as one of the main attractions of the store opening. If you make it too cheap because it's a prototype, it’ll feel like it's overpriced unless you can differentiate it from other prototypes, and if you make it too expensive, it'll feel like it's overpriced.”

“If that's the case, I'd like to do something about it. I have a guess, so I can probably get a good number of entries there, and I'm sure they'll send me feedback.”

“Well, that would be great.”

“I'm glad to hear that. It's my family's business.”

“It's not irrelevant anymore, is it?”

“Oh, that's right. I've heard that the production throughput might be an issue, but it seems fine, right?”

“I underestimated Sasami-chan's serious mode.” Tenchi chuckled as he looked at a heavy box containing the prototypes.

Trouble

A few days later, when Seina came home from work in the evening, he found a pair of unfamiliar shoes at the door.

“Is it a visitor?”

But there was no one in the living room or the back room. However, he felt the presence of someone upstairs and headed for the stairs, just in time to see Tsukiko coming downstairs.

“Welcome back.”

“What's wrong?”

“Let's just go upstairs.”

When he went up with Tsukiko, he found Jovia with Miki and the girls, looking very mysterious.

“Jovia-san, you don't seem to be in the mood for a welcome home…”

X X X

“My true identity has been revealed!”

“Yes, if you attack quickly… it hurts, it hurts! My skull will break~!”

Episode 3

“Please tell us the details of… of what transpired to blow your cover.”

“That day, after leaving the village with Tsukiko chasing after me, I was relaxing and enjoying the countryside, picking flowers and plants I hadn't seen in a long time, and making a garland…”

“You don't need to go into that much detail…”

Seina sighed, restraining Miki and Tsukiko who were about to jump on her.

“Eh, really? Well, as expected, the stores weren't open in the morning, so I just went to the station normally. Well, I enjoyed the commuter rush for the first time in a long time. The smell of cologne and perfume and cigarettes and that feeling of being jammed tightly together? I got a lot of attention, and my good looks aren't my fault. When I thought about it, I realized that it's just that foreigners are rare.”

“You were just standing there, weren't you? Then you're just a good-looking girl, you'll stand out even if you keep your mouth shut.”

“What? Is that so? Seina, there are so many beautiful women around you that I've forgotten about you.”

“Even though your words and actions are conspicuous, let’s get on with the conversation!”

“Ok, I get it! When I arrived at the station where I was transferring to the Shinkansen, the stores were open and the first place I went to was a bookstore. It was small, but I was in tears seeing the manga on the shelves.”

“…”

Seeing Jovia happily expounding, Miki and the others gave up on rushing forward.

“Well, I left the books behind, bought all kinds of manga, and the best part of traveling was the bento boxes. Well, there really are a lot of different kinds. There are so many different kinds… I thought the next step would be souvenirs, but then I realized that I had no one to give them to. However, there were so many things I wanted to try, so I bought some for myself. Go to the platform before time…”

“What did you do with all that stupid stuff you bought?”

“Of course, I put it in spirit thread storage in a secret place. Then, I was surprised to see that the shape of the Shinkansen that came into the platform had changed a lot! The interior and seats were different, but above all, it was faster. It was seriously better than before. It was early, and the scenery outside had a very different atmosphere… But when I got out to the suburbs, it was just the usual rural scenery… Ah, but what stood out was the new types of houses. Yes, there is. So, about the station in my hometown…”

“Something wrong?”

“Well, I could see the difference in the familiar scenery. Oh, you mean the historical differences, of course. I was amazed at the new subway line. I was surprised to see the new subway. I took a bus back

home on a route I knew and was relieved to see that the standard souvenirs and such had not changed. Well, the packaging and such had changed, as expected. Oh! And there was a lineup that was missing. I was shocked to see that some of my favorites were gone."

"So?"

"I can't say for sure, but it was definitely my hometown. The schools and town hall all looked exactly how I remembered them, although they've been rebuilt and new buildings have been built. The character of the old buildings here and there is just as I remember it. I was a bit overwhelmed."

"So, it's about time you explained how you were exposed."

"That's…"

X X X

Jovia was pensive as she gazed at the river flowing through the city.

"……"

She looked up and saw the nondescript houses and streets on the other side of the river.

"What should I do?"

Beyond that was Jovia's family home from a previous life. But as expected, she was hesitant to go there.

"I'm hungry. Okay!"

Jovia started walking towards the main street where the shopping district was located.

X X X

"If I've come all the way back home, I'm going to go on a nostalgic shopping and eating tour. But I can't just go from one place to the next, so I'll go to the take-out places, and then put them in spirit thread storage, and the rest I'll pick are my favorites and eat as much as my stomachs can handle."

"There goes the heartwarming homecoming."

"Food is important! Don't you agree, darli… Don't you agree, Seinacchi?" Miki and Tsukiko's hands opened like the jaws of a wild beast, and she quickly changed her words.

"I understand the sentiment."

"Well, after visiting some familiar stores, I started to feel some strange stares around some of my favorite places…"

X X X

“Thank you.”

At the female clerk's greeting, Jovia quickly raised her hand, opened the store door, flicked the curtain, and stepped out of the store.

“Yeah. Nothing has changed… it looks like the store has been renovated.”

Turning around and looking up at the store, she saw that the exterior was new. The old exterior overlapped the old one.

“…Well, I guess I'm not going to come in here anymore… I guess just because foreigners are rare, having people stare at me like that meant I couldn’t even put anything in spirit tread storage.”

A female waitress, who looked to be about the same age as Jovia, came out of the back door of the store and looked at her from behind the building. And then, beyond the woman's face, there were about four other women who looked to be about the same age as Jovia waiting with serious expressions on their faces.

Buuurp! “Excuse me.”

Jovia was laughing to herself as she left the shopping street. She wondered when they followed her and saw those women behind her.

(What? What is it?)

She noticed their presence, but pretended not to know, rubbed her stomach, and tried to pass it off as she entered a park. But the women kept staring at Jovia from behind the trees.

(… Is it that rare to see foreigners? Seriously, what kind of country bumpkins are they? Oh, wait, they’re from the same place I’m from. Haha… Still, it's a bit creepy, but this feels nostalgic somehow. Those old women are also somewhere…)

Jovia was thinking with various expressions on her face, like a hundred faces. Then a black luxury car stopped across the street. It looked so natural that Jovia didn't notice it.

(Well, I guess they must be locals because they’re waitresses at a store I used to frequent, and the old ladies at the store were getting old, and some of them looked like monsters who never change their appearance.)

Jovia's performance was a bit unusual from the outside. Even though it was a weekday afternoon, there were no other people in the park besides Jovia.

Vooooooooooong. Then, the luxury car that was parked across the street suddenly started and drove away.

“Oh, God, keep it down, stop racing your car here. Huh?”

The car from earlier seemed to have changed direction somewhere and suddenly stopped on the road near the park entrance.

“Hey, miss!”

A voice said from inside the car, and the rear door opened violently and closed with a bang.

“Miss? What kind of Yakuza… Huh?”

Jovia looked uncomfortable and saw a beautiful woman wearing a Japanese kimono standing in front of the car. With her light curly hair up, she looked like the wife of a rich man, but Jovia recognized her face.

(Geez! Mirei's mother.)

She was glad she did not say it out loud, but she could not control her expression. When the woman saw this, she smiled.

(That's not Mirei's mom, judging from her age and all… Oh my God, it's her!)

She was coming straight toward Jovia with a powerful presence.

(That means those other people are…?)

Out of the corner of her eye she caught the women watching from the bushes.

X X X

“Pfft. Turns out they were all friends from my past, but with thick makeup all round… Ouch ouch!”

“So, what about the person who came?”

“The women who were hiding called my best friend…”

X X X

The woman looking down at Jovia with a cold stare stops in front of her.

“So I came out because I heard there was a suspicious person about.”

“Oh? Oh, I notto speaku Japanezu so guddo…”

X X X

“That woman came up to me as soon as she saw me and suddenly punched me in the belly!”

"……"

"She was practicing some kind of self-defense martial art, and I seriously almost reversed everything I ate!"

X X X

Jovia was brought to a secluded tatami room in a teahouse like the ones in old Kyoto. Outside, she could see a magnificent garden, and the serenity of the place seemed as if she had arrived in another world.

"Um, please letto me go home. I havu notto done anything bad."

"Still keeping that up, are we?"

Without a sound, a waitress brought a large box.

"!"

The box was placed in front of Jovia. The top was removed to reveal a magnificent plate of parfait.

"The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons…" Jovia muttered unintentionally.

Mirei smiled with satisfaction. "I'm impressed you know it. This is a secret item that we only serve to special customers."

"Uh, I, um researchi on za internetto!"

"It looks like our esteemed guest is not impressed."

At Mirei's signal, the waitress closed the lid of the box, and was about to take it away.

"Wait! Wait! Please don't take it!" Jovia cried, clinging to the box.

X X X

""How can you be bought so easily?!"" Miki and Tsukiko simultaneously lunged at her.

"But! But! The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons is a very special item that is only served to specially invited guests.

It uses the best of the best ingredients, it's big and impressive, and delicious! I've always wanted it! Right, in Fuku-chan terms, it's something like Tenchi's special carrots." She glanced at Fuku.

"Hahaha, that makes a lot of sense…"

""Fuku-chan!""

“Myahaha! I'm sorry.”

X X X

Mirei looked at Jovia, who was eating The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons, as if she were the owner of a beloved dog or cat watching it eat.

“Hmph, you're just as uncultured as I remember. I’m just asking you to not lick the plate.”

Jovia was almost done with her meal, but she was still carefully scraping off the cream stuck to the bowl with a spoon.

“And don't lick your fingers.”

She preemptively stopped Jovia as she tried to lick it off with her fingers.

“Your actions speak for themselves, but are you ready to confess?”

“Hmm, can I have another plate?”

“You're still as unreserved as ever, but can you fit that much in there? You've been eating your way through the shopping district, haven't you?”

“It’s a good way to explain things.”

“Well, okay…”

When Mirei gave the signal, the waitress bowed, took the dishes, and left. The wait only lasted about five minutes. The box that was brought out again contained a parfait made with slightly different ingredients than The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons

“I've never seen this type before.”

“New ingredients, both domestic and imported, are becoming more and more common these days. You didn't just want to eat it, did you? If you can't explain it in a way that makes sense to me, then remember that.”

“I think you'll agree… More importantly,” Jovia turned her gaze to the waitress. Mirei signaled with a glance, and the waitress left the room.

“Well, watch closely… range designation!”

The next moment, The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons disappeared cleanly, leaving the container behind.

“What!” Mirei involuntarily leaned forward to stare at the empty container. There was no trace left.

“Well, I’ll bring it back now.”

Then The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons appeared in the container as if nothing had happened. She quickly scooped some cream with a spoon and ate it.

“Was that magic?”

And again, The Divine Beauty of the Four Seasons disappeared before of Mirei's eyes.

“Let me see it again…” Mirei asked, and the snow and moon flowers appeared, just as she had scooped them out with the spoon earlier.

“An inventory?”

“Inventory? Well, we call it ‘spirit thread storage’. Are you satisfied?”

“Yes, it's enough for the price of two Divine Beauties of the Four Seasons. So that means… an alternate world reincarnation?”

“Yeah, I suppose.”

“I need to immediately call the health department, the police, and the administration.”

“Wa-wait! Why?!”

“Because of quarantine! Since you’ve returned from another world, we have no idea what kind of pathogens you might be carrying, especially because you’re the type of person who might have something really horrid.”

“I’m not going to cause a pandemic! I’ve taken proper precautions!”

“How far can I trust you with that?”

“It’s okay. There’s an entity who made me reincarnate.”

Of course, that was just a way to hide Seina and the others.

“You not saying it was God, are you?”

“Not in the sense of the Creator. But it’s true that they have an abnormal amount of power.”

The beings that reincarnated Jovia, as well as the scientific capabilities of the universe, are at an insane level. Of course, Jovia was completely quarantined.

“Why reason could such an entity have to bring about your reincarnation? It’s not to erase some stupid mistake, right?”

“No, no. It's a long story, but to put it simply, it’s to correct a distortion that’s threatening the regular flow of space and time.”

“……” Mirei sighed heavily and put her hands to her temples. “I’d like to hear more about it, so let's move to a different location.”

“If it's a place, why not here?”

“I don't know how much you'll mooch off me, and there’s a place where we can be our real selves, right?”

“Does it still exist?”

X X X

They got out of the car and walked to a group of apartments in a slightly secluded area. It was an old apartment complex with the smell of the Showa Era, consisting of six buildings, three of them identical to each other.

“Come on, let's go.”

“Wait a minute. That room is 102 in C, right?”

“Yes, it is.”

“I was thinking this might be a parallel universe, although so far I haven't seen any upside-down letters or anything like that.”

“I see. Let's go.” Mirei gestured to Jovia to go first. Jovia nodded and headed for the room she knew.

“I’m home!”

Mirei unlocked the door and Jovia cheerfully entered the room.

“It’s so small! A truly Japanese apartment! I love the smell of old books!” Jovia looked around the room.

“Wow! The TV is bigger and flatter… Wai, is this a new gaming console?!”

“It's been over a decade since then. That console is about three generation newer.”

“Wow. But the room’s gotten quite a bit neater, huh? Are you telling me you…?”

“None of that is left in here. Since the next unit opened up, I had the wall taken out and connected them. The books and stuff are over there.”

“Oh, then you’re still just as rotten, eh? Nice, nice! Ha-ha-ha-ha… What?”

Jovia opened the curtain that separated the room from the next room and froze. To her surprise, she found a large number of bookshelves in that room and an elderly woman standing with her arms folded in front of her.

“…”

The woman silently approached Jovia and glared at her.

“Oh, sorree, I yuu are casutomer?” Jovia, realizing it was her mother from her previous life, quickly acted the part of a fake gaijin with a strange intonation. However, a heavy punch hit her in the pit of her stomach, belying her age.

“When I got the call, I thought it was some kind of bad joke. But you really are my daughter.”

“Oh, I felt that. That’s not a granny punch…”

“The carefree dumbassery that I heard from the other room, the horribly bad attempts at deception, who else but you could it be?! I'd recognize you even if you were reincarnated as a caterpillar or a cockroach!”

X X X

“… As expected, I feel like Jovia's mother.” Kirche said blankly, while the others held their bellies and laughed.

X X X

“When… when you died in that accident… I was so…” Suddenly, her mother's expression became strained, and large tears welled up in her eyes.

“Um…” Jovia, bewildered indeed, reached out her hand to somehow comfort her. But…

“I was so incredibly embarrassed!”

“Wha?” Jovia's expression turned into a pout at the unexpected response. “How did this turn into embarrassment?”

“You should understand if I say the things you scattered when you went under the train!”

“Huh! My guts and brai… Ow!” Jovia's head was hit by Mirei's fist, and her mother's fist was jammed mercilessly in her solar plexus.

“Doujin porn so bad that I wanted to pixelate them along with your run over body! When the police handed me the items, saying it was my late daughter’s possessions, I thought my face was going to catch on fire from shame! Though the suspect was dead, and though it wasn’t intentional on my part, I had to apologize profusely because they were trying to pin distribution of obscene materials on me!”

“O-obscene?! Most of those were things this rotten woman asked for!”

“It doesn’t matter whose they were, but who was transporting them! I felt so bad for the people who came to pay their respects, too. I was actually wishing that I was the one in the coffin being buried.”

“Pfft! You mean you wanted to sink into the ground in shame? Ow, ow!”

Mirei twisted her arm as she tapped frantically against the intense pain.

“They say the only cure for stupidity is death, but even after being reincarnated you’re the same!”

“Come on, at least be a little sad!”

“It’s your own fault! Of course your father and Hisashi were sad.”

“I didn't know what to say to comfort him in his state of exhaustion. And I was indirectly responsible for it.”

“It's fine. Mirei-chan has helped me a lot with the compensation issue and the cleanup. Besides, this idiot should have used a delivery service instead of picking them up herself! She probably didn't sleep well or stayed up all night in line anyway!”

“I had no choice. There were many new releases that I wanted, and when I realized it, I had no money left.”

“You could have paid cash on delivery!”

“Well, the heat and the exhaustion had gotten to me. And the delivery service’s long line was also such a drag.”

“I bet you wanted to get home and get right into being lost in your new books! The result of that was the horrible tragedy of scattering doujin porn all over!”

X X X

“What kind of mother not only has BL discussions with her daughter’s friend, but also binge reads novels online?!” Jovia snapped at her unfazed mother.

“Unlike you, I don’t do things that will get me labeled as a suspicious person. Even in the event that someone in our circles found out, I am liked enough that they would pretend they never saw anything.”

“Damn it!”

X X X

Miki looked at Tsukiko with a wry smile.

“I just have one question. As far as we heard, all the things you told us happened on the day you left, right?”

“What? Uh, yes?”

“Why didn’t you report it right away? Why don't you just tell us what you've been doing the last few days?”

“Well… I-I oculdn’t have them find out about this place, right?! I stayed at the apartment that day, and we talked, and before I came back here, I thought Mirei had secretly put a tail on me.”

“Oh, and?”

“That’s why I went to Tokyo, did some adult shopping for manga, doujin, games, and merch… Then I added a mini vacay to Kusatsu to hit the hot springs and… Ow, ow, ow! But I really wanted those things, I really wanted to go there! It was really quite tough to run across the mountains to shake my tail! I wanted to go, I wanted to go.” Jovia was writhing in agony as Tsukiko grabbed her face, but Jovia had her say.

X X X

“I see. Sounds like quite a funny situation.”

“I'm sorry. It’s due to our insufficient guidance…”

Seina and his team were prostrate as they communicated with Seto in Washu's lab, while Jovia fainted in agony from Ryo-Ohki's tickling.

“According to my sources, the mother and the friend are treating this information properly, so it seems they can be somewhat trusted. With that said, this will require placing the entire region under surveillance and applying the appropriate measures.”

“Are you going to kidnap them and alter their brains?!”

“You’d be the very first for that treatment!”

“Just some light guidance of the consciousness. As for your friend, having her become a collaborator might be a better approach.”

“By cooperate, do you mean give everything away?”

“There are other collaborators on Earth, too. If the Masaki businesses enter into business partnerships with her, we should be able to cover it up to a certain extent.”

“Ah! Now that I think about it, that woman said something similar to that… About making her a transfer employee from an overseas business partner or something…”

'Good. If there is no problem, let's contact her along those lines. Also, I'm sorry to be so quick to return, but I'd like to ask Seina-dono to help me with the project, the building of ‘Banjō Island'.”

“Construction? But I don't have that kind of expertise.”

“That’s no problem if Nayuta is there. Besides, the construction plan has been completed, so it's just monitoring and management. Miki-dono and everyone will be with you, so we can also isolate Jovia-dono, as well.”

“So everyone’s getting sent away along with Seina-kun, huh?” Miki looked a little uncomfortable.

“The situation has changed here quite drastically, as well. And Tsukiko-chan, you should go along, as well.”

“Oh, wow! Me too?”

Miki, who seemed displeased with Tsukiko's surprise, clapped her hands as if suddenly convinced and gave a thumbs up so only Seto could see.

“Including all that’s to come, think of it as training. The planned construction time is one year. In the meantime, we’ll take care of the various issues.”

“The island’s construction site is near the equator, so you should be able to enjoy some vacation vibes.”

“Hey! That means I can’t go to any events!”

“Shut up! That much should be bearable!”

“You’re asking a refugee who’s been starving for 30 years to give up a feast!”

“Should we deport this woman back there?”

“A~~~ Anan.”

Miki and the others looked at Jovia, who fell on her face and started crying hard, while Fuku and Ryo-Ohki looked on with blank stares.

“Jovia-dono, Jovia-dono. You have all the goods you’re holding for your friend in sprit threat storage, right?” Washu smiled and spoke to Jovia.

“Ah~~… n?” Jovia looked up with her tear-streaked face.

“I can't do it during spatial acceleration, but during normal times I can connect to the Earth's network, and even if you can't participate in events, I can do mail-order. We can maintain the game consoles and connect them to our monitors, and we can provide a full line of controllers and accessories.

Washu moved closer,

“During space time acceleration it’s not possible, but during normal time, you can connect to Earth’s Internet. And while you can’t go to events, you can do online shopping. I’ll throw in the access rights to all manner of suspicious, pervy stuff that I collect from all corners and time lines of the universe. You can pull all-nighters to really deep dive into your hobby.”

“Hoooo! Hooooooooooo! Washu, Your Excellency! With that, our troops will be able to fight for another year!”

“Is that so, then go and enjoy it to your heart’s content.”

Jovia hugged Washu tightly, and Washu smiled with satisfaction.

“Then it's settled.”

X X X

“Yes… it's been a year. I thought I'd be able to take it easy, but it's been really tough.”

Seina was in the living room briefing Tenchi on the mission.

“Half of it was my own doing, you know.”

“Kenshi will be disappointed, but it's a lot better than being kidnapped from your wedding and then disappearing, isn't it?”

“I'm so sorry for all the trouble I've caused you. I don't know what to say.”

“Don’t be like that, you’re the one who’s suffering. Oh, and Sasami-chan, I'm so glad you were able to get that thing hooked up.”

“No, I'm really grateful for the fact that they're very happy with the experience there. I'm indebted to the staff there in so many ways.'”

“It's about time…” When Seina tried to stand up,

“Seina-oniichan!” Sasami and Noike come from the kitchen carrying a rather large stainless-steel case.

“There are three meals for everyone, including the cake product samples. Take them with you.”

“Thank you so much, there will be really great.” Seina put the case into spirit thread storage.

“I know it’ll be a lot, but please look after Yoshiko.”

“No worries! I'm having fun, as well.”

“Then… Tenchi-senpai, Sasami-chan, Noike-san, and Ryoko-san, as well…” Seina looked up and saw Ryoko holding out her hand from the top of her beam and waving it.

“Please give everyone my regards.” Seina bowed deeply and disappeared as if absorbed into a single spot.

X X X

◯ Let's build Banjō Island

Moving to the bridge of the Kamidake, Seina took his seat.

“Launch preparation are complete… Captain.” Tsukiko, who was seated at the operator's table, announced. She was wearing the same GP operator's uniform that Kiriko had worn earlier.

“This feels kind of strange.”

“Course is clear, cloaking level one.” Miki said lightly as if in a hurry.

“Minimal thrust. Once we’re past the moon’s orbit, initiate short distance jump.”

“Roger. Minimal thrust engaged.”

Kamidake emerged from the Masaki family pond and ascended. It passed through the atmosphere, accelerated further, and crossed the moon's orbit in the blink of an eye.

“Short jump, program activated.”

“Program loaded.”

The next moment, Kamidake plunged into hyperspace. But after a few seconds, it jumped out and emerged into normal space.

“We’ve jumped out beyond Pluto orbit. Recalculating rendezvous point… Confirmed, there are no calculation errors.”

“We’ve received a message from Banjō Island. Correcting the rendezvous link timing, commencing hyperspace jump in 600 seconds.”

“We got to Pluto’s vicinity in the blink of an eye… If you base it on solar system standards, space technology is clearly just really absurd.” Jovia muttered in disgust and held up her hands in surrender.

“That’s true… But if you can set up a point, spirit thread transportation is instantaneous.”

“But setting up that initial point can take several thousand years, right? Spreading the magical element across the universe is also a scary, mind-boggling thought.”

“It would be like connecting different dimensions with a gate, and then like making a hyperspace jump, it would spread simultaneously, wouldn't it?”

“The biggest challenge is the coexistence of science and technology. But at any rate, isn't the end of the life of the universe sooner than we think?”

“Counting down to hyperspace jump.” Tsukiko's voice interrupted the conversation and everyone focused their attention.

X X X

Kamidake jumped out into empty space.

“We’ve reached the rendezvous point. Relative speeds are matched, and we will be in visual range in 10 seconds.”

A large ship appeared almost instantly on the monitor at a tremendous speed, then slowly approached.

“So, this is the spacecraft that will be the foundation of base of Banjō Island?”

“It's 35.223 kilometers long, almost as wide, and 6.5 kilometers high. A base-class mothership.” **(The book says it is 65 km high!)**

They flew around the side of the flat, pentagonal spacecraft to get an overall view of it. The sixty-meter class Kamidake was like a baby spotted trout swimming around a manta ray.

“Thank you for coming. Please follow our directions and proceed to dock.” Kuisu Panta appeared on the monitor and guided Kamidake to the mountain-like tower in the center of the hull.

“Kuisu-sama, are you alone?”

There was no one else on what appeared to be the bridge.

“Take a look at that.”

“Is that the Royal Tree?”

A familiar tree sat in the center of the bridge.

“A third generation, ‘Banjō Island’. The owner is undecided, so it's just a temporary name for now…”

Just then, an alarm rang out on the bridge.

“Fuku-chan!”

“I’m linked! Everyone!”

At the sound of Kuisu's voice, Fuku linked with the control of Banjō Island and shared it with Miki and the others.

“A high gravity wave! A battleship-class something is jumping here!”

“It’s close! Evasion is impossible at this range!”

The monitor showed an assault mothership that had jumped in almost as close as they could get.

“This is crazy!”

“Assault ships are launching from the transport vessels! We're going to be hit!”

“They're trying to take over this ship!” The moment Kuisu shouted that, the enemy ship on the monitor disappeared.

“Banjō Island, changing coordinates! You used spirit thread teleportation?!” Miki and the others realized what happened and looked at Seina.

“All gun ports that can be aligned on that axis, emergency fire! Bring down the enemy vessels!”

Miki and the others reflexively reacted to Kuisu's deadly orders and fired multiple secondary guns. Since it was an emergency fire, the power rate was only a few percent, but all the enemy ships melted and exploded.

“All energy readings are gone. They’ve been completely annihilated. I’m not detecting any escape pods, either.”

“There are no survivors.”

“We’re not picking up any other high gravity waves, either.”

“We’re staying on high alert.”

Miki and the others nodded at Kuisu's order.

“Can you explain the situation to us?”

“Just as you imagined, we leaked information about this event to the involved parties.”

“You’re thinning them out?” Tsukiko, on behalf of the group, confirmed what was difficult to ask.

“We've provided them enough concessions and time extensions. This is the collective will of the Galactic Federation. Since the Earth Confederation is going to get two assembly seats, you know…”

“So we’re essentially a lure for external threats. Roger that.” Seina said. He declared that he would not show mercy to his opponents from now on and that he would take responsibility for them. Kuisu smiled and nodded.

“I can do that kind of dirty work for you, okay? In return, Seina, you have to do my dirty work for me.”

Quickly, Tsukiko grabbed Jovia's face.

“I'll take my turn, I'll take my turn, I'll take my turn!”

“She's as good as ever, isn't she?” Kuisu laughed.

“I hope she'll change a little…”

“She was trying not to be too serious. I'm sure she meant ninety percent of what she said.”

“If it was at least half, I'd be grateful.”

X X X

“Hyperspace jump out confirmed. All systems are nominal.”

“All test programs complete. Everything is within acceptable limits.”

“Hmm… So even if Seina-dono is on board, there are no critical problems.”

“The forecast figures are nominal. Usage tolerance level is 6.”

“At this level, regular maintenance should prevent any operational deficits. Very well, that concludes the test! We’re now moving on to Banjō Island program phase 1! Transferring command to Seina-dono.”

Seina nodded at Kuisu’s announcement.

“Run another status check on Banjō Island. As soon as it is finished, we will begin moving. The first stage target is the third planets satellite in the solar system, the Moon.”

X X X

Banjō Island completed the hyperspace jump and arrived at the far side of the moon in normal navigation.

“Jamming satellites in the vicinity of the Moon, initiating space camouflage.”

Banjō Island slowly disappeared in spatial camouflage while hiding in a large crater on the lunar surface.

“We will move again at 2200 local time. Until then, take turns resting in the acceleration space.”

“But the only ones who require rest are you, Seina, my mother, and Kuisu-sama.”

“Hey, you forgot about me!”

“You're not an operator. Go build a nest somewhere and roost in it.”

“Then, I’ll make a love nest with my darling… Ouch, ouch, ouch!”

Tsukiko quickly grabbed Jovia by the face.

“You know this will happen, yet you can’t not make dumb jokes.”

“And Tsukiko-chan can’t not let them slide.”

Everyone watched the two's blurring and shoving tricks, both dumbfounded and amused.

X X X

“Damn! Does she think my head’s a grip strengthening ball?”

Jovia was standing in a block of the ship that had not yet been fully equipped. It was a huge space, maybe 500 meters long in one block, far larger than the huge underground pressure control tanks.

“Make a nest they say, but what the hell am I supposed to do here?! The vulgar castle in the royal capital would fit right in!”

With that said, she took out the items that Mirei had her store, just as it was in her room.

“This looks incredibly dumb… Almost like an illegal dump in a dry riverbed.”

“Ufufufu.”

“What, who was that?!”

But when she strained her ears, she heard nothing. She looked around, but there was no sign of anyone. And then the lights that illuminated the ship went out one after another, and the area was enveloped in darkness.

“Hey! Who's there?”

Jovia produced a light to illuminate the area, but as expected, it was unable to brighten the vast space, only the furniture and the pillars of the huge structure were visible.

“Hey, stop it. I can’t stand stuff like this!” She yelled menacingly, only to be met with a mountain-like echo back.

“Who would even do something like this?”

She tried to picture the faces of the people on this ship, but couldn't think of anyone who would pull a prank like this.

“Darling, Fuku-chan, Kirche, D and Tsukikocci are out, Miki-chan also doesn't strike me as the type… That leaves the lady that strangely has a presence despite have a plain face and flat body…? She's just like that old hag… But wait a minute. That old hag doesn't do tricks like this, does she? She'd do something worse and more troublesome than that.”

“Kusukusu.”

“Hey! I'm really getting angry! Come out here!”

A dim figure appeared, perhaps at the limit of the light source's reach a short distance away.

“Hiii!”

But the figure quickly disappeared into the darkness.

“Who… who?!”

The figure appeared right behind Jovia. Jovia, sensing the presence, turned around,

“Hiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!”

She let out a breathless scream and jumped backward with tremendous force. But the figure followed her, smiling like a bright red crescent moon, floating along at the same speed and without a sound.

“Ngahhhhhhhhhh!”

X X X

“Ngaaaaaaaaaaahhh!”

Jovia, a tearful and snotty mess, transitioned to the bridge and hugged Seina.

“I saw, I saw, I saw!”

“What do you mean you saw?”

“A ghost, a ghost! That lady that strangely has a presence despite having a plain face and flat body said, ‘Filth will be destroyed’.”

“By lady that strangely has a presence despite having a plain face and flat body do you mean me?” Kuisu, who had replaced Tsukiko as the punisher, grabbed Jovia by the face.

“Since you’re of the same type as that old hag, I’m sure lots of people hate you! But that’s no reason to come to my place!”

“When a grown woman cries in earnest, even I can’t…” Kuisu let go of her head and pulled Jovia into a hug and began patting her head.

“Ghosts, huh? Any force field anomalies?”

“Hmm, inside the ship there are… no such signs.” Tsukiko was taking a break, so Miki spoke for her.

“I see.”

Kuisu was trying to look natural, but she noticed Fuku looking away as if she was investigating something. Being observant and in regular contact with her subordinate operators, she was used to spotting subordinates who are pretending to be doing their jobs.

“Fuku-chan~!”

“Miyah!” Fuku overreacted to Kuisu's gentle voice. She clearly knew something.

“You know something, don't you?”

“Fuku?”

Fuku shivered under Kuisu's pressure and Seina's gaze.

“ZINV? Seina, ZINV is being weird, too.” The moment after D said that with a pout, ZINV's humanoid disguised body appeared.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry! ZINV asked her to keep it a secret. Fuku-chan did nothing wrong.”

“ZINV-sama? What do you mean?

“Hahaha, No, no, that’s not it. I was the one who asked them all to cooperate.” An unfamiliar voice echoed.

Everyone except Fuku and ZINV looked toward the voice, and a woman appeared.

“Ngya~~~! The ghost from before! ~~~~~ ngya!”

Kuisu quickly moved away from Jovia, who clung to her. Jovia, having lost her support, fell straight to the floor.

“Forgive my impudence. Might you be Jurai **Shiou’s** sister, ‘Masaki-sama’?”

Episode 4

Kuisu got down on one knee and lowered her head. At her words, everyone except Jovia bowed in the same manner.

“Well, if that ‘Shinou’ is my brother Shin-nii… then I guess that’s correct.”

“!” Kuisu dropped from one knee and prostrated herself on the ground.

“Ah! Stop, stop! I’m nothing more than an astral copy.”

“Be that as it may, it does not change the fact that you are a symbol to us Juraians.”

“My original also ran away because I disliked that sort of stuff. Shinn-nii also said that he’d run if he had the chance…”

“Still, you’re an important historical figure.”

“If you treat me like a relic, well, I won't force you to… Oh! But you’re ZINV's master, aren't you? Stand up, stand up. I'm the one who should be doing the same thing with this person.” Masaki looked at Seina as she asked him to stand up. “Please don’t scold ZINV-chan and Fuku-chan. They were just helping me play my prank.”

“You! I’ll never forgive you! Ngya!” Jovia, who had guessed most of the situation, jumped at her furiously. But of course, she slipped right through Masaki and landed on her face.

“She's really funny. It’s hard to find people like her.”

“I'm glad you like her. She's an idiot who goes into the astral field without a second thought, so we thought she might be a perfect toy.”

“Are you angry that people say you have a plain face and a poor body?”

Masaki and Kuisu smiled at each other, and Jovia shivered with anger as she put her face to the floor.

“You underestimated me! See my true power! Astral Scan!” A magic circle appeared around Masaki. “Skeletal creation! Body generation!”

A shiny black skeleton appeared next to Masaki, and muscles and internal organs were formed there at a tremendous rate. Within a few minutes, Masaki's naked body was formed.

“Wow, what's this!”

“Nyahahahaha! Astral link!”

Masaki's astral field overlapped into its physical body.

“Ah~~hahahaha! Now you’re going to be my sandbag! Eat this, my special Jovia roll!” Jovia took a boxing stance and lunged forward in a low stance. But, “Fuggah!”

Masaki easily ducked and with a few light palm strikes, sent her face-first into the floor, again.

“I can’t believe she engaged a person from the Jurai family in combat… Maybe she’s doing it as a gag?”

Beside Kuisu, who looked aghast, Masaki lightly shadowed her.

“Wow, she's amazing… she’s not Bio-Enhanced, but she has a very powerful body… Could it be that she’s a magic tree mage?”

“She's a capable idiot.”

Kuisu said with a big smile. By the way, Masaki remained naked, while Seina turned around and breathed a big sigh.

X X X

“Uu~~. Food’s so delicious! The feeling of getting drunk on booze is the best!”

For some reason, everyone was having a party in the same place where Jovia unpacked her belongings.

While everyone was enjoying themselves, except Jovia, Tsukiko, who had just woken up and was told about the situation, was serving the food with a **complicated** look on her face.

“Come on, stop being so pissy, JoJoviacchi.”

“If you're so mischievous, you should have gone with this sober one! And don't insinuate that I peed myself!"

“Didn’t you secretly change your underwear?”

“Yes, fine, I did pee myself, I let it all out!”

“Hahahaha. Sorry, JoJoviacchi, you were all alone in that space, right? I couldn't resist it because it was the perfect location…”

“If you were alone, Tsukiko over there would be the same too!”

“No way. My instincts told me not to mess with that one.”

“Well, you're right, it's…! Then why didn't you keep going a little longer! If you had waited, you would have had a chance of finding another suitable one!”

“But the sober one noticed Fuku-chan's condition early on, and I didn't want to lie to ZINV-chan and the others any longer.”

“Well, that's true.” Jovia stalled her anger at ZINV's slightly teary eyes.

“Besides, I was completely satisfied with JoJoviacchi’s wonderful reaction.”

“Damn it!” Jovia grabbed a bottle of beer and started drinking it.

“But still, what a sudden attack… It's like you’re here.” Miki said while sucking on dried squid.

“It wasn't sudden. Look, there was a wedding near here a while back, right? Actually, I was talking to ZINV at that time.”

“Oh, at that time? But why didn't you visit us then? There were so many great people from Jurai.”

“The main players were the masters, and I'm not a show-off to go running out there like that. You could almost tell by the way Jurai reacted.”

“That's true.”

“Well, I was thinking of timing it for the end of the ceremony, but the master was kidnapped and went away. That's why we decided on this timing.”

“This was a good time to make initial contact. But the problem of how to go public with Masaki-sama still remains.”

“I’d prefer it if you could keep it hidden from Jurai for a while. There’s also the issue of the graftling that’s maintaining my astral self.”

“Would that be from Masaki-sama's tree?”

“The main tree has taken root on the Earth, so it doesn't have that much power left anyway. I don't even know how long the unit itself will last.”

“I believe discussing the matter with Washu-sama might be good.”

“Unless she adds some suspicious enhancements to you.”

“So, she’s that sort… Well, I guess I can decide after we talk.”

X X X

Seina and his crew were assembled on the bridge as the time to move out approached.

“People who are not working are distracting, so please go play somewhere else.” Miki shouted grimly as she worked.

“But this is such an event, we wanted to watch over it until the end.”

“Yeah, no objections here!”

Jovia and Masaki laughed as they sipped their drinks, feeling like they were getting to know each other pretty well.

“Then just watch quietly! Why did you go to the trouble of opening a shop here?”

Mirei's luggage, which was supposed to have been spread out in the block below, had been moved to the bridge just like that. Jovia and Masaki are drinking just as they did at the banquet there.

“I don’t like it! It would be dumb for us to be in such a huge place by ourselves.”

“It's not that small here either!”

“The presence of people is what’s good. You don't have to worry about us, just go about your business.”

“Gah, there’s two idiots now…”

The two were having a good time, even if Miki was in a bad mood.

“Nyahahahaha… ha!”

But then a hand was placed on their heads. Tsukiko was standing behind them on the sofa.

“It's fine if you want to stay here, but please don't interfere with our operation.”

“”Yes, we'll watch quietly. We'll watch quietly.””

“Good.”

Satisfied with the quietness of the two, Tsukiko returned to the operator's seat.

“It's time.”

“Initiate phase two of the program.”

“Moving to phase two.”

At Seina's order, Miki and the others begin their work.

“Banjō Island, beginning ascent.”

“Orbiter moving into lunar shadow, course clear.”

“Arriving at the scheduled position in 160 seconds. Set cloaking to level two.”

The rising Banjō Island shimmered and became transparent.

“Arriving at the planned location.”

“What is the status of the destination?”

“There are no problems, all clear.”

“Roger. Spirit thread teleport.” Seina's spirit thread teleported Banjō Island to Low Earth Orbit in an instant.

“Jump confirmed, no abnormalities.”

“The route to our water surface destination is clear. No ships, aircraft, or submarines in the area.”

“Begin descent.”

“Initiating descent.”

The descending Banjō Island could only be discerned by the slight star shimmering. It descended silently to near the sea surface.

“Underwater base foundation is all green.”

“Linking Banjō Island’s exterior to seawater temperature.”

“Exterior sterility confirmed, all clear.”

“Begin water landing.”

“Initiate water landing. Estimated completion at 0300.”

Banjō Island slowly began to settle into the water, almost without any waves.

“It’s going quite smooth, eh?” Jovia said with a sense of disappointment.

“That's not normal, but… it sure is easy.”

“Just like in space, there’s nothing to compare it to on the open ocean.”

“Then how about this?” Tsukiko then moved one of the monitors to the main screen and projected an image from the external probe. Then, she superimposed an image of the city, with Tokyo Tower in the center.

“Wow! It's huge!”

“This is what it looks like when it’s overlaid on Tokyo.”

“Hold on a sec! How are you going to keep this humongous thing hidden?!”

“Seto-sama got in touch with Earth’s Masaki family about 700 years ago. They’ve prepared all manner of things. There are islands and lands all over the world that are not on any map.”

“Wow. Isn’t that like some huge conspiracy theory?”

“This area, including the airspace above it, is off-limits because it's an undersea volcanic danger zone. We may announce it in the future, but at worst we can use it for a few years.”

“It’s way too late now, but wasn’t there any other way?”

“We wanted a consolidated base on Earth. Besides, if we get serious about it, complete concealment is a cinch.”

“Well, I can’t say I haven’t witnessed that kind of absurdity time and again.”

“You're pretty absurd yourself, having created my body from nothing.” Masaki laughed.

“Jovia's existence itself is absurd.”

“I bet she’d have a consciousness even if she was reborn as a caterpillar or a cockroach.”

“Hey Kirche-chan, you're so nonchalantly the cruelest one here!”

The bridge echoed with laughter.

X X X

It took about three hours for the island to finish landing.

Kuisu took a nap, Seina and Tsukiko sat at the operator's table drinking tea and watching, while the others were engrossed in a game at Jovia's booth.

X X X

The scheduled time had arrived, and everyone was on the bridge at their stations.

"Auxiliary loading of the crust stabilizers completed."

"Banjō Island's progress to the underwater foundation at 93%."

"Foundation strength and hardening rate, all green."

"Foundation weighting and Banjō Island weighting ratio linked successfully. No irregularities detected in magma flow."

"Ocean current changes are in accordance with our models, as well."

And the bottoming rate of 100 was displayed.

"Confirming stage one of descending to the foundation concluded successfully… All green."

"Proceed to phase two."

"Initiating phase two of the program. Transform vessel to island mode."

The top surface of the island on the board rose and fell, creating irregular bumps on the geometrically smooth surface, and from a distance it appeared to be a volcanic island of natural rock. Huge turrets, which had been submerged underwater, rose up and surrounded the island like Stonehenge.

"Whoa~~~! Such fat ones! Is that allowed?"

"Your expressions are so vulgar. It's going to be part of the island's landscape. Just wait until it's finished."

"Transformation complete, initiating exterior disguise procedure."

Lava rocks formed on the surface of the ship at a tremendous rate.

"Progress of the exterior disguise is going well. Estimated end of stage one is 2400."

Upon receiving the report, Kuisu stepped from the operator's seat to Masaki.

"Masaki-sama. From here on, we will go into time-space acceleration mode to solidify the disguise."

"Oh, I see. It's not good if I stay here."

"This process is scheduled to take 180 days in external time. What would you like to do?"

"Then this would be a good time to go discuss the matter of my graftling."

“… I can take her.”

Suddenly, a voice echoed throughout the bridge, and Tsunami appeared behind Masaki.

“What the… geeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!! Tsunami-sama!?”

It was like a startled cat leaping, and Masaki jumped back from the spot.

“I've been on Earth for a while now, you know? You didn't know, ehehehe, I mean I did hide it so nobody would know.”

“……”

“But really, Masaki-chan… You’re such a bad girl for making Shin-nii worry.” Tsunami brought her face close to Masaki's and poked her with her index finger.

“I-I'm just an astral copy of the original, so I don’t know if I’m the right one to talk to…”

“That girl has already dissolved into the astral sea, so you have to stand in. I'm so glad you got a nice body too. Hahahaha, it's so soft…”

Masaki was being toyed with like a small child petting a kitten, and everyone, including Kuisu, was looking at her from a distance so as not to get caught in the middle of it.

“Oh! Seina-oniichan, here are more cakes and bentos for you guys.” As if remembering, she pulled out a huge number of cases from subspace.

“Well, it looks like you're busy, so I'm going to go now. Good luck everyone.” Tsunami took Masaki aside, who remained frozen, and disappeared.

“…Well, what are you going to do, Kuisu-sama?” Seina was the first to speak, amidst the stunned looks on everyone's faces.

“I'm home.” Sasami, with Masaki at her side, smiled as she made her way into the living room of the Masaki household. “Everyone was fine.”

“Well, that's not going to change in a couple of days, is it?” Ryoko muttered to herself as she looked at the ceiling from her beam.

“So… Sasami, who's that girl you're holding by your side…?”

“Souvenir.” She held her out in front of her as if to showing off a doll, but Masaki's eyes went white and she hung down helplessly.

“……”

Everyone present could only stare, unable to speak.

“Oh, yeah, you mentioned time-space acceleration or something before, what does that do?” Jovia, who had finally calmed down from Tsunami's attack, still asked listlessly.

“We're going to use spatial acceleration to grow natural vegetation on the island.”

“Wait a minute. How long is that going to take?”

“Well, we're looking at about a thousand years. Of course, we'll freeze time.”

“Why don't you just wait outside?”

“We'll keep them separated from the outside world until it’s finished. We don't know what might happen during the growing process, so we'll only connect it to the outside world once we're sure it's safe.”

“So, you’re saying…”

Jovia looked at Kuisu, “Don't you have to go home? They say you can't leave once you enter spatial acceleration.”

“Do you want to get rid of me so badly? Well, okay, I'm leaving, of course I'm leaving. Of course I'm leaving, of course I'm leaving. I have a guard dog.” Kuisu glanced at Tsukiko.

“How's the progress on the surface disguise?”

“The rock formation rate is 39 percent. There are no anomalies at the base of the island.”

“Right. Well, let me know if you find anything.”

Kuisu then approached Tsukiko, “Make sure to handle this. If it comes to that, use Kiriko-chan’s brother or sister.”

“! … Kuisu-sama.” Turning bright red, Tsukiko took a deep breath and glared at Kuisu.

“I’m seriously going to be mad if that thing gets ahead of you.” Kuisu's gaze fell on Jovia.

“I’ll do my best.”

“Very good… Seina-dono, I'll leave the rest to you. I'm going to report to Washu-sama, so if anything comes up you can reach me there.”

“Roger. Safe travels.”

Jovia looked happy playing a video game, as everyone stood up and bowed.

“Blegh!”

Instantly Kuisu moved over to the game console Jovia was playing on and flicked the reset switch.

“Nggyahhhhhh!”

“Well everyone! Have a good time! I’ll see you in six months.”

With Jovia yelling, Kuisu ran into the transfer gate, waving to Seina and the others.

“D-Damn that boring, bland chicken stock-looking hag!”

“TIme to work!” Tsukiko was distracted by Jovia's yelling, and quietly took her seat.

X X X

Seina and his team gathered the operators' seats close together and started to plan the island's configuration.

“That chicken-ass bitch, that chicken-ass bitch…” Jovia looked a bit unapproachable, deflated on the couch and mumbled grudgingly.

“Come on! Don’t stay there forever with that depressing atmosphere, shut yourself up somewhere.”

"I don't like it… I feel like I'm going to get depressed forever if I'm alone. It's so painful that I can't stand up."

“Aaa, Jovia is crying a lot.” Kirche muttered, and everyone stared dumbfounded.

“Damn it, who could say something so funny! You look so calm, but you’re the toughest one!” Jovia jumped up, shook fist in frustration and yelled.

"Look, you don't look well. If you don't want to be cooped up, come and help me."

“What~~ you told me to stay quiet because I can't do anything.”

“I think this is probably something you would like, Jovia-san.” Seina's smile made Jovia wonder as she approached.

“There are simulation games where you build a city, right? This is an island version of that.”

“Oh!” Jovia's eyes lit up as she peered into the monitor.

“Washu-san has prepared an overview of the overall plan, but with administrator privileges you can tweak it to your liking.”

Just like in a game, there was a high degree of freedom in arranging the various parts of the site, and even the terrain itself could be tweaked.

“I see. I see… I can't move or use the red parts…”

“These include the living quarters of the participating representatives, the areas scheduled for battle, and public facilities.”

“So, as long as you can keep it within this huge number of parameters, you're free to do whatever you want?” Jovia clicked on one of the bar graphs or pie charts, which showed an impossible number of parameters, and more detailed parameters appeared.

“It's not that difficult. For example, where should the cooling water in the central mountain flow from?”

By changing the place where the river flowed, the shape of the river changed instantly to match the terrain.

“Oh!”

“On the other hand, if you want a river to flow in a certain place, or if you want a waterfall or a pond in the middle, the topography will change. However, if you make it into a strange shape…”

If you make the river meander, the parameters would swing out and turn bright red.

“There is a high degree of freedom if it is only partial.”

“Hmph. But I think we can make a hideout or a secret base.”

“I don't know about the north side of the island in the future, but it's an undeveloped area, so I think you can play there…”

“Nice… hmm? Is there a hot spring?” Jovia, who had been looking at possible development sites, stopped.

“Well, it's a setting with some volcanic uplift. Well, you’re free to try as long as it is within the possible plans.”

“Yes, sir!” Jovia was delighted and began to operate.

X X X

“……”

Tsukiko remained expressionless as Seina turned around in his chair.

“Isn't it great? It's interesting, isn't it? It’s hard work! It really is a battle of millimeters and divisions!” Jovia struggled to show off while being restrained in a chair.

“On the contrary, I am impressed.”

“Miahahahahahahaha!”

“… Interesting.”

“Yeah, that’s interesting… hehehehe, Seina-kun?”

At the end of each comment, Miki smiled and looked at Seina, who nodded slightly still facing her.

“Okay.”

Miki pressed the switch with a big smile, and a small turret jutted out from the ground.

“Ahahahahaha! Take that!” Miki took aim with the formed control lever and fired a single shot.

“Aaahhh!”

The shell hit the nose of the large Jovia statue and left a hole in her face.

“Open all gun ports! Set your guns on target and open fire!

“““Roger that!””” Fuku-chan and the others joyfully begin shelling.

“Stop! Stop it~~~!” Jovia's cries were heard in vain as the statue of Jovia was cleared away.

“Cease fire!”

The shelling ceased at Miki's signal, and when the smoke cleared, Jovia's statue was nothing but an uneven rock face.

“My… my secret treasure hot spring town is all buried.”

“It's not a good idea to call them 'hidden treasures'…”

“Gsssshhhheh… I tried so hard to surprise everyone… and have fun together.” Jovia's shoulders slumped in disappointment and she began to spill tears.

“What…, really?” Tsukiko and the others, beginning to feel sorry for her, looked at Jovia with awkward expressions.

“Oh… Seina-san, everyone… look.” Kirche was the only one who pointed at the monitor.

“This is the finished drawing of the filled-in area that was in the program.”

“……”

Everyone except Jovia stared at it and no one spoke up.

“… The landscaping process is complete. We will move on to the next phase.”

X X X

“In acceleration space, primary checkpoint, return acceleration to normal.”

Work continued on the bridge. The monitor read a hundred years had passed, but the time on the bridge was about thirty minutes.

“Stabilization of the bedrock on track. Confirmed formation of underground water sources.”

“The surface vegetation is also entering the predicted cycle.”

“No problematic microbes detected in the atmosphere or in the ground.”

“The marine environment is also on track, the differences with the open ocean are within acceptable limits.”

“No deviations from out predicted models.”

“Roger. Then let’s reassess the situation after 100 years, so in five cycles.”

Time began to accelerate again.

Washu's laboratory. Inside a huge cylindrical tank, Masaki was half-naked and floated with empty eyes. The part of the tank that appeared to be a tank began to thin out, until it looked like a vacuum packet encasing Masaki. Then it got thinner and thinner, exposing Masaki's body, which was suspended by a thin thread at the top and bottom, until it slowly descended and lay on a transparent jelly-like cushion, at which point the thread disappeared.

“I thought I was going to die.”

“Nyahahahaha, thanks for your help. Your astral is stable for now, and the burden on the graft is almost zero.”

“Don't laugh! I thought I was going to die! My brother and his family and friends were waving at me from the snowy forest of Jurai!”

“Nyahaha! How did you make it back here?”

“It's really dangerous when you smile at me! I ran away as fast as I could! He was chasing me too, and I was running for my life!

“Hm? What would have happened if you had been caught?

“I don't want to remember, don't remind me! I don't want to be reminded of that! You'd better watch out too. That Tenchi kid looks just like my brother, he's the kind of guy you can't afford to piss off.”

Then Sasami came in pushing a tray.

“Ah, Masaki-onee-chan, thank you for your hard work. Let’s have some tea. You’re tired, aren’t you?”

“Tsu-… Tsunami-sama, please don't worry about me.”

As expected, Tsunami was not good at it, and Masaki, who was snapping at Washu earlier, was scared.

"Oh please, call me Sasami when I'm in this form."

“Oh, r-ight, Sasami-sama.”

X X X

Washu and the rest moved to Tenchi’s living room and were spreading out tea. Masaki was holding Ryo-Ohki in her arms, looking relieved after drinking the tea.

“I’ve taken care of the repairs on your graftlings unit. I’ve completely swapped out the preservation subsystem, so you won’t have any issues going forward.”

“I’d like to thank you for your help in this matter.”

“Kukuku. But this and that are different matters, eh?”

“I don't have the fetish to take pleasure in having people experience near-death experiences.” She was stroking Ryo-Ohki as if she were a tranquilizer.

“Miaw.”

Ryo-Ohki either agreed with that or was just happy about it.

“So, about the future, first of all, Masaki-dono's body is fine for now. For having been created in an instant, your body is quite well made. If I had to point out a drawback, it would be that you can have sexual intercourse, but you can’t have children.”

“Isn't that amazing in its own right?”

“The magic element system’s true power is limitless within the three dimensions. In that sense, I can't say that I have mastered it yet, but there is no one who can actually do that at the moment. So, it's not so bad.”

“That's a bit of a roundabout way of putting it!”

“Kukuku. If you feel like having a baby, we'll make it happen.”

“That's a normal body, isn't it? I have a feeling you're going to turn me into some kind of a monster.”

“Kukuku.”

“Stop fooling around!”

“So, as for the graftling, how to handle it also depends on what you want to do in the future…”

“You changed the subject so quickly. Well, I don't want to talk about my body right now, could we discuss this when Tenchi-dono is here? I don't know what you want to do."

“If you're going to stay in that place forever, the current unit has repaired itself well enough. If you want to turn it into a ship, or even a humanoid like ZINV, we'll need to do a transplant procedure into a dedicated unit.”

“I see your point…, but I can't decide right away…”

“There's no rush. Either way, it will take some time for the graftling to regain its strength and stability.”

“Then, when you have a good idea, we'll discuss it in Tenchi's presence.”

“You really don’t need to be that suspicious of me.”

“As long as there’s no near-death experience.”

They looked at each other,

““Hahahahahaha.””

X X X

A few days later, back on the island.

Seina and his team had finished their work and were taking a break on the bridge. The monitor showed the accelerated island, and the day repeated itself like a fast-forward movie.

“So, the new estimated completion date is in 30 days?”

Seina and the others were taking a break, Seina had coffee, juice, and a small snack, and Jovia only had water.

“Since we didn't encounter any problems during the initial 1000 years, we decided that checking every five cycles would suffice. During that time, the observation is going to be exclusively on Banjō Island.”

“Is that another test?”

“Yes. But just to be safe, the bridge will be in a low-acceleration state, as well. So you won't be able to get in here except in an emergency.”

“In other words, he’s saying that you need to clean up those games and other things.”

“That's a no-brainer, but what about everyone else? I don't want to do it alone. Let's play the game together.”

“So, Jovia-san, I'd like to ask you about having Tsukiko live in the magic unit inside the Kamidake. I'd like you to go with her. So, you see…”

“I see, so this is Tsukikocchi's magical debut, eh? And we can go hunting over there, too.”

The Magic Tree unit in Kamidake.

“Wow!”

Beyond the transfer gate, rings engraved with strange patterns, large and small, rotated in multiple layers. The whole place looked like a hemispherical dome, but the rotating rings indicated that the whole place was spherical. The floor was disk-shaped, with five magic circles carved into the floor at slightly different intervals from the center.

“The magic tree unit is at the end of the hall!”

Tsukiko was as excited as a child before a field trip.

“It's a… strange sight, isn't it…? Kamidake's residential unit looks like the inside of a cylinder, but here it looks like the back side of a spherical… star.”

Tsukiko was right, the ring was a view of the oceans and continents seen through the clouds. It looks like the Earth turned inside out.

“It is the same size as the Earth, but the land area is about half of Australia's. This is done to keep the source of the magic, the magic element, trapped inside. If you go down to the surface, it looks normal.”

“Ignore the logic, it's pointless to listen to it. Sheesh, it’s like a textbook example of that saying, ‘sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic’.”

“Then let's go.”

“I really don't know what to do about this, do you?” Tsukiko looked around puzzled. She had no idea what to do next.

“No matter which way we take, they’re all connected anyway. Well, when you first come here, you’re supposed to go to the information center.”

““Mia!”” Fuku-chan and the cabbits ran off in different directions, disappearing at the first magic circle.

“Like that?”

Jovia pointed to the front, Seina to four o'clock, and Tsukiko to eight o'clock. In other words, the three of them were to go in three different directions.

Seina nodded and began walking. Jovia started walking at the same time.

“…” Tsukiko looked at Seina for a moment, then turned and headed in the direction Jovia had indicated.

It was a strange sight.

Tsukiko began to walk, and like Fuku-chan, shifted in the first magic circle, and the place where she was walking was on the ring that was circling the disk plate she had just seen.

“We're just going to continue on our way, right?”

After a moment's hesitation, she started walking again. Then she re-transitioned and was once again on the next ring of disk plates. One after another, she moved inside or outside the ring.

“Huh?” Tsukiko felt a slight discomfort.

“Smell? A feeling of air? Something that touches your skin?” She paused for a moment, closed her eyes, and tried to sense it, but she had no idea what it is.

“Maybe this is the magical element…, but it smells like dark green…” Muttering, Tsukiko continued onward.

“Welcome to the world of the magical tree.”

The walk took less than ten minutes. It would have taken less than five minutes if she had walked normally without looking around.

“Wow.” Tsukiko exclaimed.

The scene before her was like an old train station-like building with a windowed dome on the roof, built of stone and wood. Let's just say, “Adventurer’s Guild?”

But it was more than that. What caught Tsukiko's attention more than that were the two beautiful women in front of the counter, dressed in what looked like matching classic uniforms.

(Elves!)

They looked like the embodiment of a longing that had materialized. These extraordinary beauties were Seina's wives and their friends were Amane and Gyokuren. But Amane was an old man inside and Gyokuren had a broken personality.

But, leaving their personalities aside, what they had in common is that they both had short hair that went down to their necks.

Of the two in front of her, one had straight, honey blonde hair with fine waves, the other had curly, platinum silver hair. Both had magnificent long hair that went to their hips. And their ears were like long bamboo leaves, a characteristic of elves. They were truly perfect to be described as fairies.

"You are Masaki Kiriko's mother, correct?" A honey blonde elf with a slightly husky but elegant manner looked up.

"Yes, my name is Masaki Tsukiko."

"My name is Souren, I have been tasked with guiding you. To my right is my younger sister."

"My name is Airen."

"I see. Everything is so new to me, so I'm afraid I will need all your help. I apologize for already asking questions, but two of my companions should be here somewhere…"

"Seina-sama is right over there." Souren pointed at the shade of a plant with his/her eyes. Seina came out from there.

"If you were there…"

"I thought you might want to enjoy that 'Isekai' feeling by yourself. Well, I didn't expect Souren and Airen to be here."

Kiriko-sama is handling the work over there with all her might… When she gets like that, we can't be of any help. Right?"

Souren looked down in embarrassment.

"Oh, I see. But, Airen-san, weren't you supposed to be investigating something on ZINV's planet?"

"Since Seina-dono introduced me, Jurai and the Galactic Academy research team gave me permission to view the materials and work together. There too, the specialist workers were very motivated. They didn't need me there, either."

"Oh, man! Oh, man! I forgot that Tsukikocchi is a complete and utter noob! I bet she's lost somewhere… Huh!? Oh, Airencchi!"

"Oh, Jovia! Long time no see!"

The two ran up to each other and banged their fists together, crossed their arms and laughed like old men. At first glance, it seemed like a reunion greeting between two best friends, but it was certainly not the image of a beautiful elf, at least not in the way one would expect.

"…"

“I'm so embarrassed…” Souren blushed and looked down, perhaps sensing Tsukiko's stunned state of mind. Seeing this, Tsukiko put one hand over her mouth, and with the other hand she patted Seina on the arm.

“Yes, yes. I know exactly how you feel. Kiriko-san had the same reaction.”

Airen's disguise came off quickly, but Souren had had enough.

At the counter, Tsukiko was listening to Souren's explanation and was beaming from start to finish, perhaps happy to meet an ideal fantasy elf. Souren, perhaps relieved by Tsukiko’s soft manner, smiled as he/she explained the situation to her.

“Tsukiko-dono looks just like Kiriko-dono. So, how’s her personality?”

Airen and Jovia were sitting side by side on a sofa some distance away, whispering to each other as they watched Tsukiko and the others.

“She’s a bit more relaxed than Kirikocchi, but they are very similar. I've almost had my skull crushed more than once…”

“So, I guess in the end that she’s a brute force type… If the strategies that work for Kiriko-dono’s inclinations, I suppose I should maybe not hang out with too much?”

“Hey, hey, brother! Don't say such backstabby things. Heh heh heh heh.”

They looked at each other, grinning.

((If it comes to that… I'll use her as a shield!))

“I'll see you later.”

After the explanation and formalities, Souren and Airen saw her off, and Tsukiko headed downstairs with Seina and Jovia to the main body of the Hunting Adventurers' Guild.

“This is the reception area where you come first.”

It was a larger room than the one they had just been in. The interior structure was not much different from the one above, a medieval-style room made of stone and wood. The staff was lively, with a variety of species. A group of people, probably newcomers, were working at the reception desk.

“Except for those who have returned from outside, people with magical organs come here even if they are new.”

“Speaking of newcomers, where do they come from?”

“From Renza. Basically, they’re Airen's subordinates and their acquaintances. Because of the magical world there, the rules for early civilizations are laxer than here, so there are a good number of people with magical organs who come up to space. It is difficult for these people to return to their hometowns for vacations, so they come here. And then there are people with… Well, I don't want to put it this way, but there are also people who have been displaced and they migrate here, too.”

“Is that why it's this big?”

“We're also experimenting with Washu-san, so it’s going to be on this scale… Now, the next one will be the real hunting adventurers' guild.

Seina urged Tsukiko to take the stairs ahead.

“Wow…”

At the bottom of the stairs, there was a large hall with station-like windows, which looked like an adventurer's guild. There were many staff members, and those who were available bowed to Seina.

X X X

“Heh. So there's a king or… Oh, by the way, Souren-san said something about a lord's hall, so that means there is a lord?”

“Pufa.” Jovia blurted out when she heard Tsukiko's words.

“?”

“I mean the lord’s right behind you.”

“What? Seina-chan?”

“Oh, well, we are technically inside the Kamidake. Well, I don't have any power, just a name. The city is run by the Guild.

“Yes. But from now on, I have to call you 'lord' here.”

“That would make Tsukiko the mother-in-law of the lord, wouldn't it?” Jovia quickly interrupted.

“… is it normal to call you Seina-chan, right?”

“Yes, of course.”

Seina pointed to the thorny hedge that was blocking the way. Then, it suddenly moved like a tentacle and began to open.

“Wow! … Wonderful.” Tsukiko exclaimed, thrilled by the sight.

The hedge opened to reveal a three-story mansion, as far as the eye could see, made up of a complex set of cubic megaliths. The reason I say ‘as far as the eye can see’ is because the thick ivy-like things were wrapped around it like a dragon, covered in branches and leaves, making it impossible to see the whole picture.

“Hero. Welcome home.”

Tsukiko looked up and didn't realize it, but Acha and a group of women in maid's uniforms were there to greet them.

“Acha, I'm back. Have you been well?

“Yes!”

“Welcome home, master.”

“Thank you for your hard work, Kalushushu-san. We’ll be bothering you for a bit again.”

Seina looked at Tsukiko to introduce her, and the woman bowed deeply.

“Welcome. Welcome to our home, Masaki Tsukiko-sama.”

She looked up, her beautiful green wavy hair, translucent skin, and amber eyes were striking. The only thing that set her apart from the others were her long, elf-like ears, which looked like the leaves of a plant.

“She is an Ancient Dryad, a tree fairy.”

“Dryad…”

“I am Kalushushu and I have been tasked with managing this house.”

X X X

Seina and the others moved to the living room, sat on the sofa, and took a breather.

“If there is anything you need, please call for me.”

After setting down the tea, Kalushushu bowed and went to the thick ivy growing on the wall, where she disappeared as if absorbed by the wall.

“Is that one of her skills?”

“It's basically magic. It is classified as a skill because it is magic specific to that species.”

“So the plants at the gate and the surrounding forest itself are controlled by her?”

“No, in fact, the whole city is controlled by her. She is an Ancient, so she has a territory as large as the continent of Africa, as long as there are no other Dryad’s in the area.”

“That's a tremendous ability, hmm? Hey, could it be that ZINV-sama has something to do with the fact that she serves you?”

“That is correct. Ancients are an ancient and highly capable species designed by the creators of the magic system. Apparently to them, the royal trees are something akin to a God.”

“I see… Yes, it's delicious.” Tsukiko nodded and drank her tea, smiling with satisfaction at the taste.

“By the way, Acha. Were you able to meet your mother?”

When Tsukiko finished speaking, Seina asked his own question.

“Yes. I cooked, cleaned, did laundry, and hunted with my mother.”

““Hunting?”” Seina and Tsukiko chimed in.

“Yes! Yes, because the scary pirates went away.”

“Yeah, well, did you have a good time?”

“Yes! And I got to sleep with my mom and talk to her a lot.

“Y-yeah… but it's been a while, so wouldn't it be nice if you could have spent more time together?”

“That's okay. I didn't want to disturb you.”

“Disturb me? Is something wrong?”

Tsukiko looked at Seina, her expression clouded. Seina had no idea and shook his head.

“My mom and big brother are in love…”

““What?””

“According to the elders, I may have a younger brother or sister around the year after next…”

““……””

“Now that I think about it, where did Acha-chan go?”

“My friend was coming back from pitto hunting trip, so I went to see him…”

“Is pitto hunting a basic requirement for becoming a hunter-adventurer?

“Yes, I think Acha will probably join us tomorrow, would you like to go with us?”

“Yes. I would like to go with you.

“Seina-dono, I'm sorry to interrupt you, but this could prove to be difficult…” Airen, who was crawling onto the sofa like a caterpillar because her legs were numb, told Tsukiko to stare at her face.

“Why is that?”

“It's because… oh, wait a minute!”

“What's wrong?”

“… Oh, shit!”

She looked strangely glamorous, her cheeks flushed, and she writhed as if she was enduring something.

““……””

Seina turned his face away and Tsukiko blushed at the sheer glamour of it all.

“…Sorry, my legs are numb. I've already crossed the mountain pass… ah…”

Tsukiko, with blue streaks on her temples, was trembling as she held Airen's hands half-open, ready to attack her at any time. Airen also noticed that Tsukiko was angry and she froze.

“Tsukiko-san, it’s not something I do on purpose. I just have this kind of tempo.”

Seina gently placed his hand on Tsukiko's trembling hand and slowly moved it down.

“So, Airen-san what do you mean by difficult?”

“Well, let's see…”

Seina's calm voice finally made Airen, who had been frozen, relax.

“Oh, Tsukiko-dono already got it. The magic flu.”

“What?” Seina quickly stared at the area near Tsukiko's heart.

“Thermo! … Nayuta?” Seina switched his vision to the infrared and checked with Nayuta.

“Airen-san is right. We’re starting to see some early symptoms.”

Episode 5

The room prepared for Tsukiko was a drab room with no windows and no furniture. However, anyone who looked at it could see that it was filled with an incredibly luxurious atmosphere.

The walls, illuminated by indirect light, were inlaid with painted stones made of agate and dendrite, and the floor was covered with carefully selected and bred carpets of bedding moss, like those used by the royal family on Jurai. Tsukiko sat on a raised bed, Seina and Jovia on floating stone chairs.

“I feel a little hot in the chest area and a bit lightheaded…” Sweat was on Tsukiko's forehead and her cheeks were red as she changed into her nightgown, but her eyes were still clear.

“The magic essence cold is a side-effect of the magic essence organ being formed in your body. So, in order to make the capacity of the magic organ as big as possible, every bit of usable energy in your body that can be spared will be used… and since a foreign body is formed in your body, you get a certain amount of fever, so it's pretty tough, but I've never heard of anyone dying from the magic flu, so you’ll be fine. On the contrary, it strengthens the body, so parents of sickly children are relieved when they get the magic flu.”

“I caught it in the jungle of the magic trees, so if I hadn't been saved by Barigaru, I would have been demon food.”

Seina was an exception because it was usually contracted as a child. Well, on rare occasions you heard about spaceships crash-landing in uncharted areas…”

“What happened to those people?”

“The ones who didn't make it back are the ones whose cause of death was almost always unknown.”

“Hey!”

“Seina was fine, right? There was plenty of food in the magic tree forest but goblins are a pain in the ass.”

“I'm sure that's not…”

Still, Seina, who knew the hunger of the magical flu, could not deny it.

“That's how much energy it consumes.”

“There is an important thing that I’d like you to learn. Please keep this in mind.”

Seina looked at Tsukiko with a serious look in his eyes, and knowing how Seina looked at her, Tsukiko nodded with a straight face.

“As your symptoms progress, your head will get fuzzy with fever, and then you’ll start hearing some sort of sound in your ears. It’s almost like someone is talking to you.”

“It sounds like someone is talking to you.” Tsukiko repeated Seina's words as if committing them to memory.

“Yes. It's like an announcement from a magical elemental system. Maybe an analogy for it would be like when you install an app on your PC, and you have to set up the language.”

“So I have to make that kind of adjustment, then. But how do I do that?”

“That’s easy! ‘Say it in words I understand, you moron!’ is what you have to think or say out loud.”

“What?” Tsukiko looked at Seina with some suspicion at Jovia's flippant remark.

“Basically, the important part is that you will it to be in words you understand. If you hear the announcement in Japanese, you’ve succeeded.”

“What happens if I don't succeed?”

“Then transmitting your intentions to the magic essence system will become ambiguous, which makes actualizing magic more difficult. It's like having trouble communicating with someone who doesn't speak your language. Normal people use magic like that.”

“So that's your cheat, Seina-chan.”

“I want people to understand the magic system and use it well.”

“You haven't spread the word to others?”

“Well, I'm slowly spreading the word…”

“Well, there are some people in power who don't like it. Well, the rest you just gotta experience. Are you starting to feel worse now?”

Tsukiko's perspiration increased, as did her redness.

“Yes, I'm going to go lie down.”

“Seina, I think it's time for you to go.”

“Well then, please don’t forget to keep that in mind. Good luck, Tsukiko-san.”

X X X

Tsukiko was lying on the bed and Jovia, her companion, was playing a game on the Washu emulator by her side.

“I know you have nothing to do, but you’re really playing video games here? … Why do I sound like I’m scolding my stupid son?”

“Kai-kun, right? From my point of view, that’s normal. Seinacchi is the one who's weird.”

“You're the parent of a child, you understand a little, don't you?”

“Yes, I do. My daughter is a Seinacchi type.

“I think you and your daughter are going to have a good talk. To put it simply, there is a difference between you and Mirei-san. You may have the same interests, but how you're seen is different: moon and turtledoves, bells and broken bells, buzzards and crows, gold and rusty iron, elves and goblins… ah, a young lady and a suspicious person.”

“Wow, I’m just showing my true self! It’s better than being a rotten woman on the inside but a fine woman on the outside.”

“That's not true, right? As long as you behave normally, people will pretend not to notice even if you have some unusual hobbies. Well, you were overlooked because you were getting good grades in your studies. Wow… well, I've gotten off topic somehow. What I'm trying to say is, don't openly play erotic games in front of people.”

“There was a ton of them in the data that Washu-chan unlocked for me.”

“You can do that when you're alone.”

“My mom and my friend from my previous life were having a rotten conversation, so I thought why not have some erotic talk with Tsukiko as a counterpoint…”

“Why don’t you go do that with that unfortunate elf.”

“In this erotic game, the targets are my girlfriend's mother, sister, and aunt, so…”

“It’s going to be a lot of trouble, isn’t it?”

“I thought that if I could get Seina and I to hang out a little bit more, like an extension of our school days, we could get closer, but I don't think I'll be able to hang out with Miki and the others anytime soon, and I don't know who else I can hang out with.”

“So you want me to be one of the idiots?”

“I don't have high expectations. Well, if I had to guess, I'd say it's a Tsukikocchi role. Kirikocchi is like that, too.”

“I understand what you're trying to say, and I'm grateful for your consideration. But I guess she's quite difficult…”

“Then… maybe this is a good opportunity? In a sense, the magic flu can make you feel like you've been reborn into a different being.”

“Yes… I'm looking forward to it…” At that point, Tsukiko's consciousness began to become hazy.

“It's about time… Tsukikocchi, don't forget what Seina said.”

“……”

X X X

Tsukiko was in deep darkness of consciousness.

(hot… hot…)

[**********]

(It's hot… oh, I see… this…)

[**********]

(Jovia said… that's true… something different… fear?)

[**********]

(My body is… different… being attacked by something… Seina, chan)

For a moment, she saw Seina's smiling face in her mind. She saw a young Seina when she first met him, and how he grew up one after another like a running light.

[**********]

(…!)

And finally, Seina reunited with her.

(… He's so cool… You’ve become a nice-looking adult…)

[**********]

(Oh, shut up… shut up…)

[**********]

[**********]

[**********]

(Shut up, shut up, shut up, shut up… I'm at a good spot…)

[**********]

(I'm at a good spot, why are you still in my ear?! Oh!)

At that moment, Tsukiko remembered Seina's words.

[**********]

(…Is this so? But… uh… I don't know what you're talking about.)

[**********]

(I said I don't understand … please … 'say it in a language I understand' …!)

Frustrated, she remembered that the words she had accidentally uttered were what Jovia had told her to say.

[********* essence *** strong*** image***materialize***]

(What? What?)

[***magic***essence*** is materialized by strong images.]

Suddenly, the noise that she didn't understand began to make sense. From that moment on, the discomfort Tsukiko had been feeling disappeared.

[The potential of the magic essence is endless.]

[The magic essence is the essence of everything. It can turn into anything.]

[Ask the magic essence.]

[The magic essence remembers everything.]

[Change. Change. Be smarter.]

[Spread your kind. To the land. To the stars. Fill the universe. Our child, go forth and create paradise.]

(… I see … I succeeded…)

Like water soaking into dry earth, the meaning of these words was imprinted in Tsukiko's memory. Whether with relief or exhaustion, Tsukiko's consciousness sank into the deep, deep darkness.

It was clearly a different world. And Tsukiko had become a different person.

Tsukiko ran away from the nobleman's house with a boy.

The boy had lost his mother and had no support as a child of the nobility.

He was almost killed by his second brother, saved by a girl he had known since childhood, contracted the magic flu, and from then on was treated differently. But this was only to support his eldest brother, the next head of the family.

The boy longed for freedom and the power to do so.

In hopes of one day running away from home, he tried out various types of magic.

Spirit thread storage.

A pneumatic doll in his own likeness.

He turned it into a doll operated by hydraulic muscles.

Furthermore, it becomes an advanced item using a skeleton made of a mysterious metal.

He evolved it into a human-like prosthetic body using old clothes, controlled by parallel thoughts, and acting as a commoner's child in the city.

He was a nobleman who sanctioned those who had a grudge against him. However, everything came to a crashing halt when his mother-in-law spoke up to protect him.

And the boy said goodbye to home.

The other person that Tsukiko became was originally one of the prosthetic bodies that operated with the boy's parallel thoughts. However, from the moment she took the magical crystal she inherited from the boy's mother as her power nucleus, she became a different persona from the boy.

Tsukiko loved the boy. Whether it was a mother's love, a woman's love, or a self-love based on parallel thinking, she do not know. But the intense love she had for him was all of the above.

(------Seina Chan?)

The boy's unfortunate upbringing overlapped with Seina's. Her love for the boy overlapped with her love for him.

But it was a woman's feeling for Seina who became an adult. But it is far more intense and closer than the protective feelings for the son, Kai, or the unhappy boy.

(… Ah!)

It was what Tsukiko, who had taken a step back before, wanted deep in her heart.

In the arms of Tsukiko, who embraced the boy, the boy transformed into Seina.

(…!)

For a moment, Tsukiko was confused and loosened her arms, but then she slowly, slowly puts them back together.

X X X

“Seina-sama, it seems that Tsukiko-sama has woken up.”

Seina, who was doing administrative work as the feudal lord of the Hunting Adventurer's Guild, looked up when Souren knocked and came in.

“I see… Judging from the timing, I guess she was able to hear the voice properly. But that also means that her recovery will take some time.”

"I will have Airen take turns with Jovia-san to take care for her."

“Thank you so much. It really would not be appropriate for me to be doing that…”

“I hope my little sister will be a little quieter by Tsukiko-sama’s side.”

“I don't think you need to worry about it that much.”

“When I saw how disappointed Tsukiko-sama was when she first saw my sister, I couldn't help but think that you were right… I say this because Seina-sama is kind, but I'm not sure if he's acting like that in front of all the members of the Galactic Federation…”

“Well, there are worse examples…, so maybe I'm getting numb to it. But as far as I know, people are going to be amused…”

“As is the case with Renza, there are only a few people who would find that interesting. You forget that's why it was kept in the frontier. It would be a matter of honor for Seina-san if you don't keep quiet, at least until you become known to some extent.”

“My honor is synonymous with notoriety, so I don't mind if I'm not… well, it's certainly better to look good…”

He felt weak when Souren looked at him with eyes that hid a fleeting sadness.

(Certainly, if you have two people like Souren, your likability would be at its maximum…)

In any case, in terms of appearance, it is the ideal image of an elf. Considering the friendship between Renza and the federation, it would certainly be a waste not to take advantage of it.

“But Kiriko-san also took a lot of precautions…”

“It's impossible to fix it, but it's a training exercise to keep the tension going. If I can keep it up even with Jovia by my side…”

“Ah, so…”

Seina understood the reason for having Airen and Jovia take care of Tsukiko. Then, there was another knock and Miki came in. And behind her…

“Seina, do something about that mad scientist!”

A half-crying Masaki was standing there.

(…Tsukiko-san… maybe there will be 3 channels)

X X X

“Kalushushu-san!”

Seina, who had guided Masaki, was holding Kalushushu who had collapsed at the same time as the abnormal flow of magical elements emitted from the pavilion.

“… I apologize… A large amount of my magic essence was taken from me, so my control of the mansion is… I’m fine now.” Kalushushu immediately stood up.

“What is happening over there?”

“Oh, that’s the mystery money generation.”

“Who would do something like that?”

Seina was puzzled by Nayuta's words.

“This phenomenon only happens for the initial generation, so it must be Tsukiko.”

“Kalushushu-san, Tsukiko-san woke up today, right?”

“Yes, in the early hours of this morning.”

“It's not even been half a day…”

Seina stopped as he was about to enter the pavilion.

“Jovia-san and Airen-san are chaperoning her, right?”

“Yes. Definitely.”

"Seina, Seina. It's okay. I don't know anything about magic, but judging by the signs, it's just a little unreasonable."

“I see…”

Seina, judging from Masaki's appearance and his own instincts that there was little danger, released his tension. At the same time, the flow of magic stopped.

“Looks like it's over. I can lie down on the floor now… and it looks like there's no problem.”

“I understand. I can't go over there, so please report back to me later.

“I'll keep an eye on it for you.”

“Thank you very much Kalushushu-san.”

“Don't worry, I'm with you.” Seina reminded her, ignored Masaki.

“I'll leave it to you.”

“You have a good personality, don't you? You are just like my brother, and so is Tenchi.”

“That's what happens when people with good character give you a hard time…”

X X X

“I see now why Seina-dono refrains from coming here despite being so worried.”

As soon as Masaki entered the room, guided by Kalushushu, she said brightly. Tsukiko stood up and bowed to her, then resumed her meal as Masaki waved her hand to sit down.

“Speaking of, when did you come back?”

“I escaped! I cried to Tsunami-sama to send me here.”

“Was it Washu-sama?”

“That mad woman made me her lab rat again and again! I've paid her enough for solving the graft problem, so there's no reason for me to stay there any longer… So, this is the result of that incident from earlier?” Masaki looked at the mysterious golden skeleton with a little bit of eeriness.

“Yup, the same thing that’s inside you.”

“It's pretty creepy to see it in person like this, isn't it? Oh, Seina was worried outside. This maid was supposed to report back to him later, so please take care.”

Kalushushu gave a small bow at Masaki's explanation. Jovia and Airen stood up and began to explain the situation to Kalushushu in the corner of the room.

“That is an impressive appetite. Well, it's only natural with your body in the condition it's in. But that means you also have to eject an impressive amount, huh?” Masaki said with a smile as she approached Tsukiko.

((…A))

Jovia and Airen's expressions changed when they heard this. Suddenly, a compressed air body formed on the mysterious gold skeleton and grabbed Masaki's head.

“Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!”

“Please refrain while I’m eating.”

“I got it, I got it! Okay! I'm sorry, I’m sorry!”

The mysterious skeleton released the flailing Masaki.

“I feel like an incredible witch has been awakened…”

“Tsukiko… Scaryko.”

Airen and Jovia cringed in the corner of the room.

X X X

In the pavilion on MIkagami, Seto and Kuisu received a report from Minaho on the monitor.

“So that’s the current situation. We keep seeing candidates drop out, especially from Balta, Da Ruma, Jurai, and Shank. It looks like the selection process is going to take some more time…” Minaho breathed a small sigh.

“It makes sense. There aren’t that many weird people who enjoy having the fate of the guild rest on their shoulders.”

“Good, good, it seems things are going smoothly.” Seto nodded in satisfaction.

“The tenth verification team’s report could confirm the matter of Palty Jurai… But that was too much to keep from Mikami-sama and my mother.” Minaho glared at her with a bit of resentment in her eyes.

“It's a good experience for the new girls. Besides, it was about time to tell those two anyway.”

“But I’m the one who has to listen to their complaints…”

And Minaho ran two communications recordings.

--Please don't be so cruel to my Misao-chan. Don’t torment our Misao too much. He's stuck between a wife and a hard place.

--Don’t you care about your parents?! So that super treacherous dirty hag is more important to you than your actual mother! Isn’t that right?

“Ara ara, she called you a super treacherous dirty hag.” Kuisu glanced at Seto.

“Hohohoho, I think she’s talking about you.” Seto smiled in return.

--PS. By the way, it’s both bland and too much makeup!

A postscript played as if to butt in on their argument.

“”Oh my.””

“That is all.” Saying that, Minaho smiled smugly and quickly closed the communication.

“Minaho-chan is developing more and more, isn't she?”

“At the same time, her wedding day seems further and further away.”

“With that said, it seems that the generational change is going well at Mikami and Airi's place as well.”

“We need to support Yosho-dono, Tenchi-dono, and Seina-dono's entourage… They need to show us that they’re actually rising up to the challenge.”

“The lack of manpower is becoming more and more serious. I think it will be at a minimum usable level by the time Yosho-sama's survival is announced… I wonder if Renza will be able to make it in time.”

“That's why we need to make sure that our side is in good shape.”

“I’ll see to it that Palty-sama’s nomination as representative will move forward form tentative to definite. Then we will be able to maneuver the other pieces, as well.”

“But with that, I’d like to have someone we could install right in the thick of it. Won’t someone as capable as Funaho-dono, Tenchi-dono, or Seina-dono show up?”

“Waiting for that kind of miracle… I do know what you mean, though.”

“Then again… Kiriko and her team have been growing so fast lately that I'm afraid of them…”

“… I hope it's nothing more than a sermon in front of you.”

Kuisu and Seto looked at each other and breathed a big sigh.

X X X

“Is this the… garden? If so, it's…” Tsukiko was brought to a place about the size of a gymnasium, which looked like a poorly maintained courtyard.

“This is the place from hell…”

“This is the place to test your observational skills a little.” Seina immediately echoed Jovia's line.

“Hey…”

Jovia was miffed, but she cleared her throat when she saw Tsukiko's magic arm.

"Okay. The test is to assume that the enemy is lurking here, and we're going to head for the exit over there while keeping them in check. Any weapon you like, no visualization or scanning for magical elements. We'll be watching from up there."

Jovia and Seina moved from the nearby stairs to the second floor terrace.

“Then begin.”

Tsukiko looked up at Jovia with her shield, and Jovia raised her hand to signal.

Tsukiko began to walk normally. Her stride was small but smooth, and her shield moved up, down, left and right slightly. Her face didn’t move much, and her gaze wasn’t focused on any one spot, but rather looked at the scene from a wide angle. Her right hand was relaxed.

“This won't be a good test. Since I'm looking at them from above, I can tell that she’s conscious of dangerous places, but from the sidelines, I looks like she’s just walking normally. She looks just like Kiriko.”

“Tsukiko-san has also received Jurai combat training.”

“If she uses magic visualization and scanning, there's no chance of being attacked by surprise… But hey, it's just a test.” Jovia smiled wickedly.

A rustle! and a few goblins popped out from unexpected places: the tops of trees, a few bushes, and in the dirt.

“!”

With fluid steps, Tsukiko skillfully used her shield and plants as obstacles to avoid the goblins' attack. The next moment, however, a glistening thread-like object pierced through all the goblins and they stopped moving. The goblins fell to the ground.

“Geez!” Ignoring Jovia's cries, Tsukiko quickly made her way to the exit.

“Damn!” Jovia ran like a rabbit and Seina followed her.

“Tsukikocchi! That’s a blood weapon!”

“Blood Weapon?”

“It's a weapon that sucks out a demon's liquid crystal with all its blood. Could it be that the string-like thing we just saw is that?" Seina asked Jovia who snapped at Tsukiko while questioning her.

“Just give me back the magic crystal you pulled out of the magical element!”

“Oh, that's what you meant.” Seina agreed.

“Isn't the loot from the demons the property of the person who defeated them?” Tsukiko asked.

“This is just a test, a test!”

“The attack just now was clearly a deviation from the test, wasn't it? If that's the case, I'll take it as a consolation prize.” Tsukiko smiled.

“Because Tsukiko's level is so high, it's hard to tell! That's why I was just testing you! Give it back to me, or he'll get mad at me for wasting his money again!" Jovia clung to Tsukiko and began to cry.

“Another debt? You never learn, do you?”

“I have so many things I want to experiment with! I have no choice!”

“What about all that money you spent in Tokyo?”

“Because… there are so many things I haven't seen in my hometown in a long time! If you miss out on them, you'll never be able to get them again…”

“Well, as for the magic crystal, please give it to her. It’s true that I want to make sure.” Seina looked at Tsukiko.

“Well, it was a good experiment for me too, so I'll let you off the hook this time, Sir.” Tsukiko returned the five-millimeter magic crystal she pulled out.

“Oh, thank you, Magistrate-sama.” Jovia got down on her knees on the spot.

“I don't know which one is the instructor and which one is the student anymore…”

X X X

A few days later, Seina and his team were on the bridge of Banjō Island.

“Environmental growth is fine. Progress is good. I think we can now move on to the final stage of the regular cycle.” Miki said to Seina, who was patting ZINV's head.

“Yes, I understand. I'll take care of ZINV, too.”

“Yes.”

Miki and Kirche started the operation.

X X X

The island's environment was improving at a tremendous pace. Shrubs began to grow on the ground, which died and were replaced by new growth, gradually creating a rich soil.

Episode 6

◯Daily life of Seina and his friends

Pitto hunting. Jovia and her friends stayed indoors and played games.

X X X

Trees became huge and transformed into a dense jungle. The number of birds and insects was also increasing.

X X X

Daily life of Seina and his friends.

Tsukiko and her friends hunted demons and worked in the Guild.

X X X

The underwater environment was becoming shallower as corals increased and accumulated.

X X X

Daily life of Seina and his friends.

X X X

Moss and water plants grew in the rivers and fish swam in them. Even in mountain lakes, water moss and fish like salmon and trout began to swim.

X X X

Daily life of Seina and her friends.

X X X

The sandy beaches were also gradually growing. The number of fish was increasing, and the colors in the sea were becoming more vibrant.

X X X

Seina's daily life and the state of the island gradually accelerated, and the island was completely covered in greenery.

X X X

Half a year later - after repeating this cycle over and over again, tens of thousands of years have passed.

“Wow~~, this is amazing. It's an isolated island in the South Sea, a magical green land.”

The monitor showed various parts of the island, with stunning virgin forests covering the entire island, coral reefs surrounding the island and thick fish shadows, disguised turrets that had turned into green pillars, and a blue hole in the coral reefs. The island was shown, with no landscaping or man-made structures anywhere yet.

Everyone was gathered on the bridge, admiring the beautiful scenery.

“Seriously, it looks like there might be dinosaurs or something, doesn't it? Aren't there demons or something?”

“If there were such things, we would be in trouble. If there are any, we'll have to start all over again.”

“What about an old man wearing a fur waistband, or a kid swinging on vines, or throwing a boomerang and getting away?”

“No. If you really want something like that, you should come.” Miki delcared coldly.

“I'm not an Amazoness…”

“Shit, I think Jovia-san would look good in it…”

““Boo! Hahahaha.””

At Kirche's comment, everyone burst out laughing.

“Damn it ~ you poisonous idol! Then I’ll do it!”

'Kukuku. Well, I guess there's nothing wrong with the process, and I think we've created enough of an environment for the island.” Washu also looked happy.

“Environmental links with the outside world are normal. So what's the next step?”

“Switch the spatial shield to filter mode and see what happens.”

““Understood. By the way, how did the selection of representatives for each Guild go?”

“We're working hard on a few things. I've got something interesting for you.”

The pirates' profiles were displayed on the screen.

“There's a bet going on right now, sponsored by Seto-dono's accounting department, to see who will represent the pirates…”

“What?”

Washu's words were followed by Jovia and Masaki.

“Kukuku, I thought you'd be interested, Jovia-dono.

“But didn't you say you were working hard on it?”

Seina and his team's reaction was cold.

“When it comes to horses, it's all about who the trainer is and who the jockey is. It's a prediction that includes that. Well, if you're interested, you can participate.”

““Yes, yes! I'm interested.”” Jovia and Masaki stared intently at the monitor displaying their profiles.

“On a different note, Seina-dono's family's store has opened successfully and the number of customers seems to be quite good.”

“Oh, I see. That's good to hear. Thank you for all the help you've given us.

“Kukuku, Sasami-chan's cakes are also very popular and she enjoys making them every day.”

“I see… it was worth the effort.”

Seina and his team were relieved to be released from the rush of taste testing prototypes.

“There will be more new releases later, so I look forward to working with you again.”

“Ha, ha…I'll do my best.”

Seina and the others chuckled, and Jovia muttered in a whisper, “Burn fat.”

◯The problem children have arrived.

“Well, I've never been to a place like this before, so this is a new experience for me…” Seina looked around as if impressed.

“Kamidake's unit is much better maintained. And then there are all these weird magic trees…”

“Myahahahaha!” Fuku and Acha were having fun at the beach.

“Jovia-san, don't you want to wear a kimono?”

“That's perverted. Well, how about a leopard print bikini?”

“When my original came to Earth, it was just like this.”

“I-I see.”

Everyone breathed a sigh at Masaki's remark. After all, it's been a hundred thousand years since Masaki's original arrived on Earth.

“Seina, Seina! Fish! Fish!” Fuku grabbed a blue fish about sixty centimeters long that had entered the bay.

“Oooooh, the furball has become feral in a flash, eh?”

“Well then, let's explore Banjō Island before we do any maintenance.”

““Aye!””

X X X

Seina and the others looked around the jungle.

“Ahhhhh!”

Jovia, howling as she swung on the ivy, her hand slipped and she fell to the ground. Seina and his team picked fruit from the trees.

Fuku walked along the edge of the river and suddenly plunged her face into the water. When she came up, she had a fish in her mouth.

They were excited to find a waterfall ahead.

Seina and his team decided to enjoy the untouched and uninhabited state of the island after the completion of Banjō Island.

They spent a few days playing in various places. The jungle was filled with fruit, the sea with seafood, and the central mountain top with vegetation similar to the other world where Kenshi would sent.

Pitch your tent and enjoy the starry night sky.

“Seina-dono, may I have a moment? I hate to impose, but I need you to take in four pirate guild representatives right away.”

When Banjō Island's natural environment was in order and they were about to prepare the various facilities, they received an urgent request from Seto.

“We are still in the process of building the facilities.”

“There's no need to worry about that. We have an outline of the development plan, and won’t it be fun for the inhabitants to do that themselves?”

A pamphlet was forwarded to Seina.

“Is this… a guide for moving to Banjō Island?”

Seina picked it up and read the title.

“Fun tropical island life in paradise? They're coming to fight, aren't they?”

“On top of the representatives, their families and staff will come, too. They are just ordinary people who are going to become citizens of the same country. Of course, we will send security personnel, but they will also be assisting the Masaki family in the future, so in the end they will be colleagues.”

“Damn! I was thinking of having a bunch of fun before the island gets developed.”

Just as Jovia, who had nothing to do with the situation, interrupted her, Tsukiko blocked Jovia's mouth with her magic arm.

“Hohoho, Tsukiko-chan learned a fun trick, huh? You can do whatever you want outside of the combat zone and common areas.”

“So is this the end of our mission?”

“Of course not! Seina-dono, going forward, you will be maintaining Banjō Island and observing the battles.”

"Observing… the battles?"

“I was going to make an announcement after all the representatives had been chosen, but I'll give you an overview of the future. At this stage, Earth is represented by the Masaki family. Seina-sama will be the representative of the Galactic Federation, which will monitor the battle.”

“I don't have any specialized training in this area, will someone else be sent to monitor the battle?”

“The battle will be judged by the Royal Tree ‘Banjō Island’ and Seina-dono's ‘Nayuta’. Seina-dono will verify it and make the final decision. Just in case, there will be an observersent from the Earth side.”

“Earth? Is that okay?

“Since we're building an island here and stuff, we do have to follow some sort of protocol.”

“I understand. Anyway, I heard that the selection of the representatives ran into trouble. Did something happen?”

“There is still a lot of confusion in the selection of the representatives. There are some external parties who are trying to take advantage of the commotion to intervene. The same goes for the remnants that have flowed in from Renza and some from the Galactic Federation. There are all kinds of extremists who are trying to bribe or harm the representatives in order to gain an advantage. Well, there are people in every world who can't see the forest for the trees.”

“… So, since the representatives of the four major Guilds (Da Ruma, Jurai, Balta, and Shank) have been chosen, are we going to move forward and protect them?” Tsukiko asked, looking at the list.

That's what I mean. Since they’re all capable, they’re facing a lot of interference. If someone manages to flip them somehow, it’ll be a bother… If we can keep those guys at bay, it'll be a lot easier.”

“But if we allow them onto the island early, won’t we get complaints that they got an unfair advantage due to know the lay of the land better?”

“Jurai, GP, and Seniwa. In all fairness, keeping them in any one facility would raise suspicions of backroom deals.”

“So you are saying that if we are going to protect them, it should be on the Earth, which will become a single nation.”

“Detailed information about the battlefield with be publicly released ahead of time, so there won’t be any advantage to be gained there. To begin with, the team for setting up the place will arrive in two days. They will be entering Earth the usual way, so please be aware.”

After saying this, Seto cut off the communication.

“That's very sudden, isn't it? What kind of people are these maintenance people?”

“Without any data on them, it's possible that they are our acquaintances.” Tsukiko looked at Seina's face and pointed at herself.

“Seina-kun. We’re receiving a message from the transport ship for the construction team.” Miki activated the monitor, and Otoka appeared on it.

“Long time no see, Seina-sama.”

“Otoka-san?! It's been too long. But Seina-sama is a bit…”

“I can’t exactly call you Seina-chan anymore.”

An elderly woman pops out next to a smiling Otoka.

“Tomi-obasama!” Tsukiko exclaimed.

“Yamada Seina-sama, it’s a pleasure to meet you. My name is Masaki Tomi, I will be heading up the construction team.”

“It’s a pleasure to meet you, as well.” Seina bowed deeply in response to Tomi's bow and looked at Tsukiko as if clinging to her.

“Tsukiko-chan, is everything all right with you?”

Seina gave a small smile and turned his gaze to Tsukiko.

“Tsukiko-san, do you know each other?”

“She's one of the Masaki’s who settled in space; she’s Fuuka's aunt. Does that mean that the construction team that was dispatched is…?”

“All people affiliated with Masaki. If the Earth’s main house is going to be publicly announced, it’s going to need a bunch of subordinates. And if a new royal family is added on top of that, it’s obvious that every able person in the clan is going to come.”

“I see…”

“Actually, Mizune-sama should be the one in charge…”

“She ran away because she didn't want everybody admonishing her… Fuuka went along too.”

Seina and Tsukiko chuckled at Otoka's sighing words.

Two nights later, a civilian transport ship approached Banjō Island.

“Welcome to Banjō Island.”

Seina and his team greeted Otoka and Tomi on the bridge of Banjō Island. On the monitor, they could see a large container being taken out of the transport ship, which was stowed in the inner dock.

“Well, the work is scheduled to start tomorrow…”

“Tomei-obasan, wouldn't it be better if you took a little rest first?”

“I've had a lot of time to relax on the ship. We need to get things in order and get ready for our guests.” She smiled at as she said this.

“Well then, Seina-sama, here are the plans we’ve made…” Otoka activated the table monitor and a three-dimensional image of Banjō Island appeared on it.

“The southeast block of Banjō Island will be the space Masaki's private base. Outwardly, it will be a fishery and marine product processing business.”

“We have the layout of the houses, the shape of the harbor, and all the necessary buildings prepared, so once the foundations are ready, everything will be usable after three days’ spatial acceleration.”

“The center block’s southern front will be the island’s main entrance. Administration and shops, along with their employees and the families of the representatives, will live here.”

“We will set up the government offices, stores, and facilities around the harbor first. Since a lot of the participants haven’t been selected yet, we plan on adding buildings as we go.”

“Next is the ranch and infrastructure, and the base of each representative.”

“Representative bases?” Seina had a strange look on his face for a moment.

“Each of them has their own secret base. There are probably secrets that must be kept unless the representatives are kept separate and independent, and the battles will be broadcast live." Otoka grinned.

X X X

The next morning, the development of Banjō Island began immediately.

Holes were dug for the foundation and the remaining soil was moved out. Seina used magic to specify the range and stored it in spirit thread storage. It took about 30 minutes to dig all the holes.

The next step was to dig the concrete and natural stone foundations. The anti-gravity probes placed the preformed objects in the holes one after the other.

“With magic and space science, it'll be done in no time at all…”

Seina looked up at the ranch that was being built on the hillside. He had seen this view before when he was building the island, but to cultivate the land directly from the outside, using partial space acceleration, was like watching magic in action. It was a magical sight to see the dark green undergrowth disappear as the trees were cut down and replaced by fresh, light green grass.

“It's only with the power of the Royal Tree that we can do this trick. Normally, we could only accelerate the whole thing while shielded by a large, dedicated dock.”

Seina looked a little stunned.

“Seina-kun, your area is about to in range of the time acceleration.”

At Miki's request, Seina and the others moved to the bridge.

“Fixed coordinates of the shielded areas, each time acceleration parameter checked.”

“Commence acceleration.”

“Roger, commencing acceleration.”

The clock on the monitor started spinning at a great speed.

“Even if you look at this, there is no change.”

“Well, it's about stabilizing the ground. It's only a few millimeters at most.”

Miki and Kirche chuckled and looked at the monitor.

“We've got some free time. Since we're here, let's go fishing.”

“Yes! Let's go!” Fuku happily jumped on Seina.

X X X

A little further away from Seina and his team, Tsukiko and Tomi were having tea and taking a break.

“That little child has grown into quite a formidable person.”

“You last saw Seina-chan… Ah, when Kiyone-sama was…”

“Indeed, we didn’t know where Tenchi-chan was. I remember how that child was white as a sheet and shaking.”

“That's right.”

“To think that that child married Kiriko-chan, and now you’re also…” Tomi couldn't help but laugh.

“…I'm surprised myself.”

“Speaking of surprises… The announcement that Yosho-sama’s alive, and the founding of Tenchi-chan’s Earth Masaki family are big ones, too. I can’t believe I’m witnessing this.”

“Those are also Seina-chan's achievements.”

“It's a newly established claim to the imperial family, and Funaho-sama too, but to see him grow up like that, as a descendant of the Masaki family, I'm really looking forward to what's to come.”

X X X

Two hours later, after confirming that the foundation was stable, the installation of the main structure began. The building itself had already been constructed, so all they had to do was put it on the foundation and fix it in place.

“This is really like a game…” Jovia was leisurely observing the process while eating an ice cream.

The building was set up and checked before evening.

“Whoa, you really put together this old-looking fishing village in no time.”

“At this hour, that would be tomorrow…”

“Masaki Village has been relocated and life is already in full swing.”

“I've been searching the ocean, and I know some of them have started fishing…”

“So, you're just going to go fishing?”

“We'll see what we catch. I'm sure we'll explore that one over time.”

That night, there were lights on the island, a sign of human life.

“It’s rather soon, but please take in the representatives tomorrow.”

“But if we go by this list, we can only house about a fifth of the people in the buildings on the surface.”

“Because of the aforementioned interference, we need to take in more people. Affiliated staff, families, and in some cases, entire clans. So it’s become quite a large group.”

“Inside Banjō Island vessel, there are no sleeping quarters other than those for the bridge staff, and we can’t really use Kamidake’s living quarters, either…”

“They can camp out in the wild for a while. These people aren’t’ that delicate after all. Hohoho.”

“Isn't that a bit harsh?”

“That reminds me that Washu-sama force… I mean shared a bunch of goods with us. There was a large amount of survival equipment included.” Seina recalled the huge amount of household goods that Washu had pushed on him.

“That's great! Maybe those are military survival items for an uncharted planet. It's a tropical paradise, so let’s have them enjoy their life on the surface. Hohoho.”

“So that’s how she accumulates hate, huh?”

“Anyway, let’s do what we can to prepare as much as we can.”

Seina's words prompted Tsukiko to contact Tomi immediately.

X X X

“Come on, move it already! At this rate, you’ll never be fit to serve the main house!”

Early in the morning of the next day, preparations were being made to receive the first group under the direction of Tomi.

The foundations had been set up last night and stabilized by spatial acceleration. The houses of the same unit would be laid out on top of it.

“I'm sorry that you have to be rushed like this.” Seina approached with a rougher appearance than usual, and a scraggly beard on his chin.

“Oh, Seina-chan…?”

“Oh, I apologize for the surprise. Please refer to me as ‘Minamida’ from today on.”

“… Is that supposed to be a disguise?”

“Well, I’m sure the pirates hold a grudge against me, so I want to avoid any unnecessary trouble.”

“Oh, really? I don't think you have to be that worried, but if that’s what you want Seina… I mean Minamida-san, I’ll play along.”

“Please do.”

“Anyway, I’ve been subject to Seto-sama’s absurdity longer than you. Besides, there’s someone among the representatives whom I know, so leave it to me.”

“I'm sure I can count on you.”

“Seina, they said the preparation over there are done!” Fuku ran up to Seina.

“And you too, Fuku. When you’re in Cabbit form, you can’t talk in front of people.”

“Mia!” Fuku spun around and turned into a Cabbit, and as she climbed onto Minamida's shoulders, her fur quickly changed color to white.

“I suppose that’s her already being conscientious…”

Tomi and the other workers watched Minamida run off.

“Come on! Move your hands! We don't have time for this.”

X X X

“All gates linked. Auto check rank 4, split up into groups and start transferring.”

“Container ready for transfer.”

Miki and her team were on the bridge checking the transfer and receiving positions. From the four large transfer gates installed in the armored docks on board, ten-meter class GP containers were transferred one after another, sorted, and disappeared into their respective transfer gates.

“… But still, is it alright that all of them are such young women?”

“Almost all of them were forced into the program for a reason. They are all proficient enough at fighting to have been chosen as representatives, and their staff is first class, too.”

“Isn't it still a bit unnatural?”

“Of course we did a lot of work, didn't we? But like in the GP, pirates are not all active duty. There are more people working in the administrative field and in logistics.”

“And the real troops got away as soon as they could?”

“Or the smart ones.”

As Seto finished, Miki turned to him.

“Seina-kun, luggage transport complete. No sign of any dangerous goods.”

“Seina-san, the participants have arrived.”

The next vehicle to be transferred was a coach that looked like two large buses connected side by side. The passengers seemed to be divided into different groups, and they disappeared into separate transfer gates.

“Seina, this is the last one.”

“Here comes the representatives.”

“Well, let's go greet them first.”

“I will come too. Seina-dono, I mean Minamida-dono, I’ll match you and hide my identity, as well.” Seto's monitor suddenly went black.

“Seto-sama, please use Minamida when I look like this.”

“All right, Minamida-sama, I am the owner of this island.”

“Roger, owner.”

X X X

Seina and his team moved to a square overlooking the beach and the sea in the new port town in the center of the island.

“Damn, it's hot. And what’s with the stench here.”

“I suppose you can’t help it if you only know the smell of rotting flesh and guts, but this is the smell of nature, you ‘rabid dog’.” Alea responded to Dird's whining.

“Did the tiny ‘traitor’ Balta say something?”

“Stop that, it’s disgraceful.” Palty stopped them.

“Hmph! Funny that a ‘loser’ is on her high horse. And you too, ‘ruined’ woman, say something.”

“… I’m fine.” Apuesta stared at Dird with a blank expression, and spoke with her Soroban-type vocalizer.

“Damn you.”

The four largest guilds, all represented by girls younger than Seina. Shank and Balta's representatives were in a rather unfriendly mood, but the others were surprisingly normal. However, since they were competitors, there was a sense of distance between them.

The names in single quotes are the nicknames of the respective Guilds.

‘Rabid Dog’ Shank – It became popular because of Tarrant.

‘Traitor’ Balta – Created a nation with Jurai’s support.

‘Loser’ Jurai – He lost the power struggle and ran away.

‘Downfall’ Da Ruma – The Great Guild was crushed.

“Yes, yes, that's quite enough. I'm happy to see that you're full of energy, despite the long trip.” Seto, the owner, on the black monitor, interrupted.

“Who the hell are you? At least, show your face!”

“I'm the owner of this island! My identity is a secret. Please follow the instructions of the manager.”

Then Seina, Fuku-chan, and Tsukiko arrived.

“You're an Earthling, right?” Dird, the girl with the ferocious smile, suddenly lunged at Seina.

“”””!”””

Instantly, Alea, Apuesta, and Palty were ready to move. It seemed that they were all of the same mind. Seina, however, lightly avoided the first blow, and Tsukiko intercepted Dird as she was about to follow up with another.

“I am the actual Earthling here.”

The current representative of Earth is the Masaki family.

“Hmm, is that so?” Dird readied herself to pounce at any moment.

“That’s just like Shank. Really a ‘rabid dog’.” Palty looked aghast.

“Is she trying to show off her power to the people of Earth to get an advantage, before we get to decide the ranking amongst the guilds?”

“It’s fine. You’ve got to use your chances wisely. It's not fun to be ahead of Tarrant, though.” Alea was having a good time, too.

“Fighting here is against the rules…”

“It sounds fun. You should let them do it.” Seto said as she overrode Seina.

“Se… O-owner!”

“Ahahahaha! Owner or whatever, you get it!” Dird was surprised to hear that.

“However, since not all the representatives are here yet, this battle’s not going to affect the rankings or whether or not you have a seat in the House, right?”

“That's fine. I just want to smash in the face of the annoying chick in front of me.”

“Then it's settled.”

With Seto and Tsukiko's approval, the pirate versus Earth battle was set.

“I have one suggestion. Since this island’s battle field is going to be needed later, we can’t really use it, right?”

“Hmmm. Well, I understand your reasoning, but what are you going to do about it?

“So I suggest we do this in the hyperspace field that you use for training.”

“You bitch!” Dird's face contorted as she realized the reason.

“Depending on their fighting style, some of the girls may need to prepare in advance, right? It would be troublesome if they complained about it afterwards. So let's decide where each one is strong.”

“You're a lickspittle! I'm going to rip you to shreds!”

Dird was now completely furious. Apuesta was calmly narrowing her eyes, while Alea bared her teeth and looked angry as she was smiling. Palty looked calm, but had a vein throbbing in her temple.

“Then, let’s settle the order with lots.”

“Mia!” Fuku raised her paw joyfully.

“Is this going to be okay?”

Seina asked Tsukiko with concern. Behind them, there were various reactions of joy and sorrow surrounding Fuku-chan and her team. It seemed that each of the four cabbits was spinning around, each with a number in turn. Each of the four animals, which are indistinguishable from the others, has been

selected and their order has been decided. The cute little girls were so adorable that they were starting and stopping to cuddle each other.

“Seina, can you lend me the magic crystal you filled? I have one myself, just in case.”

“… Okay, take this.”

“You sure?”

“No matter how you use it, it will be fine.”

Seina handed over a pitch-black divine crystal.

X X X

“H-hey… what does that mean?”

“So, Masaki, does that mean…?”

“If she’s really an Earthling, she’s probably descended from Jurai’s first Empress…”

“But…”

“You're the one with the weird technology… or maybe you're the one who's not smart enough?"

“I'm just not good at thinking about difficult things.”

“… That's what people call muscle for brains.”

“Just because you’re talking on that weird device doesn’t mean you can’t talk, right?”

“… This is faster.

“You're pretty good at it.”

“That technology is probably due to ‘device decay’.”

“I can’t believe it’s Earth!”

“I don't think so, it's an early civilization.”

“… Rumor has it that some people in Renza use it from time to time.”

Dird and the others were whispering to each other.

“So? Do you find me acceptable now?”

A few hours later, all four of the battered girls were sitting on their knees in front of Tsukiko.

“Of course, Elder sister Tsukiko!”

If they knew that the other party was superior, they would honestly admit it. The look in their eyes was sincere, without anger or contempt.

“Buhukuku! They called her elder sister! It hurts! It hurts!”

Needless to say, Jovia was grabbed by the face and sprawled out.

((I will never go against this person.)) Dird and the others straightened their posture as they stared at Jovia's disaster.

X X X

“…”

“…”

“…”

“…”

Dird and the others were stunned at the beach where their respective bases were scheduled to be.

“Hey, why is there nothing here?! This pamphlet said…”

Dird pulled out a gorgeous brochure and opened it to show the old man in the back. It showed a magnificent house and its interior facilities.

“Gahahahaha! You didn’t read the fine print? You were in a hurry…”

“Fine print?! … ‘This is a conceptual render of the completed state. Please procure you own house’?!”

“Well we did come here after an emergency evacuation. For a while we’ll have to make do with this tent. Gahahaha!”

“This is no laughing matter!”

“When I was young, when we didn’t have enough resources, we’d go down to undeveloped planets to secure some resources. Poison gasses, extreme temperatures, there were many inhospitable environments. Compared to that, this is heaven.”

“But food…”

“The jungle has plenty of edible stuff. The beach and ocean are treasure troves of food, as well!”

“And the toilet?”

“Do it wherever, then use a leaf or wash it off in the ocean. Fortunately, it's warm enough to keep you cool, so you can kill two birds with one stone! Gahahahaha.”

“You're an idiot, Grandpa!”

X X X

A few days later,

“I caught it!”

Dird suddenly emerged from the water and shouted to the old man on the beach. In her hand was a blue fish, almost a meter long, that she had harpooned.

“This place is fun! The food is delicious!”

A short distance away from the bonfire, she looked happy with a bowl of coconut and a skewered, grilled fillet.

“Well, I'm off to the exchange…”

Dird headed for the beach, hopped into a wooden boat with a large fishpond basket tied to the back, and began rowing along the beach. The old man nodded happily as she left.

X X X

Dird headed for the beach south of the central block.

“Ah! Luretta.”

In front of Tomi's store was a large tent with just a roof, and various barter activities were taking place there.

“Oh, Dird-chan. You're always so full of energy.”

“Melissa-chan, bero-bero-baa.”

Dird comforted Luretta’s baby in her arms. The baby giggled happily.

“Auntie Tomi, I brought 50 lobsters…”

“Apuesta, please confirm…”

“… Roger.” Apuesta nodded and ran toward Dird's wooden boat.

“You got used to the environment pretty fast, didn't you?”

“Yes! It's fun here.”

“It looks like you've gone completely wild. Is Alea in the jungle too?”

“Yes, she likes to hunt birds.”

“Palty collects wildflowers and fruits. Apuesta has this kind of system… it's quite robust."

X X X

Seina and some old pirates gathered at the town hall and meeting place near the fruit store.

“Are you sure you want to do this?” Seina looked worried as he watched Dird and the others from upstairs.

“I think those girls are taking their roles as representatives of their guilds too seriously.”

“That's right. After all, it's a matter of respect. It's like a child who remains stubborn despite being shown mercy by the enemy. Don't let yourself be swayed by the intentions of such people.”

“What's more important is what happens after this tournament is over. After all, we're going to become one country, so we can't let any grudges remain. We don't want young people who have a bright future to remain prejudiced.”

The old men were also members of different guilds. But the atmosphere in the room was that of good friends.

“Sure, it would be nice if they could be like you guys…”

“If we were enemies at work right now, we could point guns at each other without any problem, right?”

“I lost my parents, siblings, friends… and of course Jurai and the GP.”

Ha, ha…” Minamida looked at him with a complicated expression.

“Then we can get along well. Of course there will be conflicts of interest, but in any case, the important thing is to know the other person, kakkaka!”

“You just love to see young girls embarrassed in all kinds of ways, don't you, you old bastards?”

“”!?””

It was Tomi who suddenly called out. The old men who had been smiling until then froze.

“No, no, Tomi-san. We are only doing this for the girls' sake.”

“Yes, yes! You’re also concerned about the girls, aren't you, Tomi-san?”

“Mm-hmm.”

Their panicky attitude suggested that half of what they were saying was bullshit.

"Well, that's good. Well, it's time for you guys to sit up. I don't think he's at the age where he needs to be taken care of yet."

“Oh, yes. We have a lot of things to do.”

“Well, Minamida-san, take care of the rest.” The old men quickly left the room.

“They're a bunch of pirates who can't seem to get over their childishness.”

“Tomi-san, how long are you going to live like that?”

“I'm just trying to keep those old guys' pranks from escalating, but I'm not doing anything wrong. As we develop this island as a place to live, I hope they'll develop a sense of attachment to it. They won't be reckless in battle either. It's a good opportunity to learn that the prejudices of each guild don't just apply to the people who belong to it. Besides, they have everything they need to survive. We can stay like this for a while. In fact, they look like they’re having fun laughing.” She laughed happily.

“You're having fun too, aren't you, Tomi-san?

“You're the one who may support the Masaki family in the future.”

“Wow…” Seina frowned as he thought about the future of Dird and the others.

Then, a month later

“Hey, Seina, are you sure the people from Earth are coming? I knew there was a deal going on behind the scenes.”

Seina, the cabbit girls, Tomi, and for some reason, Jovia came to meet her at the pier in the central bay.

“Well, yeah. The only thing is that the deal is in accordance with the laws of the Galactic Federation, and no technology or information is being provided.”

“Is that acceptable to you?”

“The region that this planet is in is technically part of Jurai’s territory. Of course, from the standpoint of preserving an initial stage civilization, anything inside the sun’s’ gravitational field belongs to the Earthlings… Everything else is owned by Jurai.”

“That's out of reach for humans now, isn't it?”

“Yes, but in the future, it will be a kind of prison. When we go out to other star systems, they will be ours.”

“And?”

“That’s why the deal includes the development rights of a dozen or so light years, including several star systems.”

“And they were satisfied with that?”

“I heard they used to be very forceful in the past. But now they're satisfied with the deal.”

“That's… in its own way.” Jovia smiled meaningfully.

“Minamida, the target has entered the visible range. The target is periodically dropping smaller vessels. At present, I count ten vessels. All are about 15 centimeters in size.”

“All rank one. I can see it now…”

A large 100-foot, 30-meter class cruiser, a motor yacht, came into view.

“Damn bourgeois! I’ll bet that whoever is on it is a beer-bellied old man! If he does anything harassy, I’m going to send him back as a boneless ham!”

“What kind of vivid fantasy are you having there?”

While she was saying this, the motor yacht was approaching the pier, maneuvering beautifully.

“The boat is coming alongside. Please stop the engine.”

“Yes, sir.”

The voice that responded to Nayuta's communication was a woman's.

“It's nice to meet you. My name Miron Pham, I am the Earth’s observer sent by the leadership of the United Nations.”

A young woman in a suit and tie stepped down from the aft deck. The young, intelligent, good-looking woman with eyes as deep blue as the Southern Ocean bowed deeply.

“……”

Her appearance was stunning and oozed class.

“You don't look like a watcher. You looks more like an erotic secretary to the president of some top company or the erotic female manager who comes to Mirei's house.”

“Welcome, Pham-san. My name is Minamida, I represent the administration of Banjō Island.

Ignoring Jovia's nonsense, Seina approached Miron.

“Minamida-sama? I heard that the managing director is Yamada Seina-sama.”

“Minamida is a pseudonym. I don't want the people who play for us here to know my name.”

“So you are Yamada Seina, who was allowed to go to space despite being from Earth?”

“Yes, well…”

“I see.” Miron smiled graciously when she heard this and then…

“Yamada Seina… No, Mr. Minamida. Please marry me.” She said.

[… Ha?]

“I might not look it, but I can be quite devoted. I am a virgin. But I am confident about my body. You’ll be free to do whatever you want to me!”

“Why are you looking at me like that?"

Jovia noticed Seina, the cabbit girls, and Tomi’s gaze directed at her and tilted her head quizzically.

“We got another weirdo…”

◯Friends call friends.

“Sign here, here, and here…”

At the Banjō Island Town Hall, Minamida and Miron were signing documents for the establishment of Banjō Island, permission to fight, and permission for Miron's assignment.

“… Oh, and here’s another one.”

When he was about to sign the document that Jovia handed him, “That's a marriage license.”

“?”

Nayuta's voice stopped his hand and he glared at Miron.

Miron quickly averted her gaze.

“You know what? I'm already married.”

“Then you'd better get the divorce papers.”

“Don't try to ruin my family's happiness as if it's a matter of course!”

“I'll make you happy.”

“What do you want from me?”

“Hehehehe. It’s just you and me here… If I scream here…”

“So? Who's alone with you?”

The cabbit girls there turned humanoid, and Nayuta materialized and was standing behind Miron.

“Huh?”

X X X

“Oh, Minamida! Let's get married!”

“I'm already married…”

“Hahaha! I heard from Jovia when she was drinking that you have multiple wives! It would be nice to have at least one more wife!”

“Mia!”

“Fugyan!”

Miron was kicked up and kicked down by the cabbit girls like a ball, and sent spinning into the sea.

X X X

“‘Ow, ow, ow!”“

Miron and Jovia were grabbed on the face by Tsukiko.

X X X

“Hahahahahaha! I'm going to have to use force.”

Miron came out of the bushes wearing camouflage makeup and a bathing suit.

“Eat the CQC (Close quarters combat) that the military Special Forces trained me to do, huh?”

Seina spun her around and threw her into the water.

X X X

“Hey, why? Why? Why? Why? Why?”

Miron was walking after Seina, asking questions.

“Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?”

Seina covered his ears and ignored her. Miron persistently followed him.

“Meow!”

“Oh, ~~~~~.”

Fuku gave Miron a kick and she flew into the sea.

“Look, I’m not going to give up on something like this.”

While saying that, she fell into the sea. Dird and her friends were watching from the exchange.

X X X

Miron crawled out of the water, soaking wet, and came to Dird and the others at the exchange.

“What's wrong with me? What's wrong with me?”

Dird and the others were a little taken aback by Miron's mumbling.

“Hey, that manager is… the same guy from before, right?”

“He thinks he's hiding it, but he's not.”

“At first, I thought he was a jerk, but then I saw him on…”

“I'm sorry to hear that.”

Dird and the others were whispering to each other.

“Ahhh~~!”

And there Jovia was also thrown off and dove into the sea.

“Or that one…”

Dird and the others let out a small sigh at Minamida's misfortune.

“…”

Miron glanced at Dird and the others as she drank her juice.

“Change.”

Seina appealed directly to Seto with a disgusted look on his face.

“Seina-dono, you have a low resistance to this kind of misfortune… but no.”

Although he begged Seto, he was quickly rejected.

“It's a private matter. I have no say in the matter.

“You think it's funny, don't you? But I'm afraid it might interfere with your work…”

“She's doing what she has to do. She's even asked for the establishment of a high school.”

“A high school?”

“She has been stressing the importance of educating our children as part of building a nation. You see, Dird and the other representatives are surprisingly young, aren't they? Masaki and the pirate elders are also well-established. There have been complaints, and petitions have come from there as well.” Seto said with a grin.

X X X

“Damn… I thought I smelled like Jovia the moment I met you…”

“I knew you were a competent… kind of guy.”

Miki looked uncomfortable and Kirche breathed a small sigh.

“I can't forgive you for sharing your character with me.”

“They're kindred spirits, aren't they? We’re lucky that Airen and Masaki are holed up in the Magic unit. I wish Jovia was also holed up in the game and manga doujinshi nest.”

“I would do it if I had to rely on machines to monitor me, but if I had fun outdoors, I would go outside. However, when it comes to school…I find myself saying some surprisingly decent things. I thought she was just a colorblind woman, but…”

“But what actually happens? When it comes to high school, wouldn't it be better to go to the Academy?”

“There is also the correspondence option.”

“Perhaps the purpose is to let them learn together.” Tsukiko said.

“Now that Dird-chan and the others have met at the exchange, the atmosphere has changed quite a bit, right? I think they're trying to develop that a little more.”

“I see… so this is a plea from the elders.”

“If that's what they had in mind… I certainly can't say I blame them.”

“I'm fine with the same saltiness as before when it comes to the colorblindness.”

“Then… the only thing left to do is convince Dird and the others.”

Miki's words drew everyone's attention to Tsukiko.

X X X

“They've all agreed to do it.”

Behind Tsukiko's smiling face, Dird and the others stood erect.

At the end of the embankment jutting out into the central harbor was a masonry watchtower that Seina had made his home on Banjō Island.

“Seina, you have a visitor.”

In the middle of the night, the sleeping Seina and the cabbits were quickly awakened by Nayuta's warning and transferred directly to the Banjō Island’s Bridge.

As the monitors unfolded one after another, Miki and the others assumed humanoid form and took their positions.

“A ship disguised as a fishing boat is approaching the alert area on Banjō Island. And a conventional-powered submarine is coming this way, although it's still outside the watch area.”

Japanese patrol aircraft were already tracking the submarine, but it had not changed course or surfaced.

“Oh, man, they never learn, do they?”

“Obviously, they've been doing this since the day the Miron arrived.”

Miki activated some recorded footage.

--A person who pretends to be passing by on a boat and comes by diving.

The diver surfaced at some pool where they are partying at night.

--A person who takes advantage of the shadows of night to attempt a parachute descent from a high altitude.

When they pass through the clouds, what spreads out below them is a football field, and the spy landed in the middle of a game.

--A fishing boat made an emergency evacuation request. There were armed fishermen on board.

A large wave splashed past, and the boat was sailing on a large river somewhere. A large number of crocodiles were sunbathing on the river's edge.

“Seina-kun, you seem like an idiot this time. The fishing boat earlier was hit by a suspicious submarine with a laser Morse.”

“Let me in. If we don't, they say they'll bomb us with nukes.”

“The corresponding nuclear submarine is cruising without power, 2,000 kilometers away.”

“I guess we have no choice but to use force… Are the patrol planes still tracking us?”

“Looks like they've been ordered to return home. They've changed course.”

“Roger that. I'm on my way.” Seina transferred directly to the bridge of the ZINV.

“ZINV, let's go out for a bit.”

“Yes! Master.” ZINV's elemental body nodded happily.

“ZINV launch sequence, let's go!”

The huge hangar looked like a temple. Large candelabra were lit one after another, and ZINV, seated on the throne, floated up.

“Voooooooon!”

ZINV rose from his throne. The magnificent doors in front of him were blocked shut, revealing the stone temple aisles.

ZINV slowly floated up and through the passageway, reaching a room with hexagonal columns with patterns carved into the walls.

“This isn't Renza anymore, can't we just launch normally?”

“I promise, I promise, Master.”

“Roger that. ZINV, demonization.”

A divine demon crystal and several polar crystals floated in front of Seina. The walls of the outer room become transparent, and beyond them the ocean could be seen. The walls turned into water. ZINV was swallowed by the water, and ZINV itself was assimilated into the water.

The surface of the Blue Hole on Banjō Island rose, and the seawater momentarily took the form of ZINV, which then dissolved back into the seawater as ripples.

Fluctuations moved through the sea at a tremendous speed. It became a large wave that engulfed the disguised vessel, then enveloped and obliterated a conventional submarine moving through the water. The water fluctuations took the form of a ZINV in front of the deep submarine, and a giant arm of water grabbed the submarine.

“!!”

When the sailors of the disguised ship woke up, they saw a disguised ship and two submarines washed ashore somewhere.

“Good morning~~ Alea-chan!”

“Yes, yes, good morning. You've been incredibly energetic early in the morning.” Alea said with a disgusted expression as Dird greeted her with a smile.

“Good morning.”

“Good morning … Good morning.”

There they were joined by Apuesta and Palty. They were going to the high school built on the cape.

It was an old wooden structure, but it was painted white and reasonably clean.

There, a soaking wet Miron came up from the beach.

“Ahahahaha, Miron-sensei, good morning!”

“Hey. You young people are looking good today!”

“Sensei, are you giving Minamida trouble again? Why don't you just give up?”

“Too bad! It's a collaboration between all four cabbit girls today.” Miron whined as she squeezed the hem of her lab coat.

“But no matter how many times I am defeated, as long as my ambition is unquenchable, I will survive!”

“That's an unbecoming appearance for a teacher. Why don't you pull your weight a little?” Palty asked with a straight face.

“There's a word on Earth for being an antagonist! If you look at me and say, 'I shouldn't be like this! I'd love it if you could look at me and say, 'This is not how it should be!”

Palty and the others sighed and Dird laughed at Miron's statement.

X X X

The students were seated when they heard the chime, and the door opened with a bang as a dressed Miron entered.

“Stand, bow, be seated.”

The students greeted her, and Miron responded.

“Hello! Everyone is present again today. I'm impressed!”

Miron looked around the classroom and nodded smilingly. The students were all half-lidded, taken aback by Miron's high spirits since this morning.

“Well, today is the day you've been waiting for, one of our school events, the introduction of our new students!”

“”!!!!””

At that moment, everyone's eyes widened in surprise.

“Come on in, come on in.”

At Miron's words, two new students entered.

“Well, now we have the whole class here.”

Miron then looked around the classroom again. All the students realized what she meant and looked at the new students with serious eyes.

○Trouble is a thing.

Finally, all the representatives of the participating Guilds were present, and the battle to rank the Guilds began in earnest.

The battle for the southwestern block of the island was fought on the board.

Dird and the others fought using the old-style guardian system.

Dird overwhelmed her opponents in combat. Alea attacked her opponents by shooting. Apuesta made full use of traps. Palty used authentic martial arts to taunt her opponents into obstacles.

“Now, the battle was more than a twenty-man mix-up, the consolidation proceeded and the battle was divided into four teams, led by the four major Guilds of Tarrant, Da Ruma, Balta, and Jurai! What should we make of this, Lutachi-san?”

“… Well, it's going as expected.” Seto, who was watching the live broadcast, tried to answer the commentator's question.

“Unless there's some kind of trouble or betrayal, it looks like we're going to have a stalemate.” Mikami was watching with her.

“I thought the people of Earth would try a little harder, but Seina is so competent…” Seto raised her hands and shrugged.

“I guess you'd have to have a tremendous amount of experience to be able to deal with such a large number of problems.”

“In other words, are you good at dealing with it?”

“However, even with that rule of thumb, his chances of getting into trouble are skewed, hehehehe.”

“Hohoho, he really is a troubled boy.”

They both chuckled at the thought of Seina.

“… However, it looks like it will end like this without anything happening.”

“Se, Seto-sama! I have an urgent message!” Then Minaho came in at a fast pace, her face blood red.

“Is it okay if I'm here?” Mikami asked as she sat up.

“I would like Mikami-sama to see this as well.”

Then, a monitor displaying the same content started up in front of the two of them. Seto and Mikami quickly confirmed this by moving only their eyes.

“Ku… kukukuku, ahahahahaha…”

Seto started laughing joyfully, while Mikami looked up to the heavens and covered her eyes with her hands, but there was a smile on her mouth.

“Yes. Yes! That's how Seina-dono has to be!”

A few days later…

“What do you mean a civilian from Earth has requested to move to Banjō Island?!”

Seina could not hide his confusion when Washu contacted him.

“Could it be that the Earth government is trying to not only monitor but also participate in the…?”

“He’s just an ordinary person who has nothing to do with anything.”

“Did I… do something?”

If it wasn't not the Earth side, then it was his fault. That's what he thought. Otherwise, he would be a mere civilian who wouldn't even know about Banjō Island, so he would have no contact with him at all.

“Apparently, your mother has given an acquaintance of hers a pamphlet for Banjō Island.”

“… Mother, … A pamphlet? But how?”

“The number on the pamphlet indicates that it belongs to the representatives who were unable to participate due to an accident or the disappearance of the Guild itself. They were sent to Tsukiko's house, or more precisely Seina's house, and were left in your room, where they were taken by Kai-dono.”

“K-Kai…”

“I accidentally sent it to Seina-dono. It was a mistake related to Seto-dono, so don’t worry about it.”

“No, but…”

“So, Seina-dono's mother's friend and her husband were extremely tired, both physically and mentally, due to work, and they decided to move to Banjō Island because they longed for its natural beauty. So, after filling out the necessary information, the GP delivery department demonstrated its ability to reliably deliver the application to any location and delivered the application form to the home of an ordinary person on Earth, which makes me laugh. Ahahaha.”

“They don't have to be that competent…”

“It was the same with your case, too, wasn’t it Seina-dono?”

“Then we have to stop this right away!”

“Too bad! Well, that's a good thing, and the kid from that family is already heading to Banjō Island in advance.”

“… No way!”

Seina looked at Washu quizzically.

“Kukekukekuke. That's right. Seto-dono is interesting… or rather, interested. Besides, after investigating the boy in a hurry, it might turn out to be a little interesting."

“Interesting?”

“About the future of pirates.

And so it was decided that the boy, Kukoma Shou, would participate in the Battle of Banjō Island.

X X X

“Kusu. So you're going to perform the coming-of-age ceremony on him?”

Tsukiko's coming of age ceremony was for the children of Masaki Village, who had grown up unaware of their alien descent, to be told of their birth, but instead of being told in words, they are made the protagonists of a mystery or horror drama. As a result of the village's collective theatricality, they learned that they are the descendants of aliens.

“Well, that's the way it is.”

“However, is the support system for battle reliable? I can’t believe that Washu-sama…”

“Washu-san will be in charge of equipment, but Nayuta will be my advisor and Fuku and the girls will support her.”

“That's reasonable. Then we need to move quickly. I'll help you.”

“Thank you. Tsukiko-san is much more accessible to the participants than I am.”

“So, what are your conditions for Dird and the others?”

“In exchange for being latecomers, we can offer them one seat for the Galactic Federation, which the pirates are fighting for, and one seat for Earth, which would free up two seats in total.”

“That's quite extraordinary… Well, since it's about Seto-sama and the others, I'm sure they're planning something. Okay, then I think it's possible to get approval from the elders.”

“Then I'll go pick him up. I'll take the boat to buy you some time.”

“Take care.”

X X X

Seina took Fuku-chan and the girls on a small cruise ship. The goal was to get to the nearest island from Banjō Island.

“Seina-chan. They agreed with the terms.” At that moment, Tsukiko sent a message.

“I see. Good.”

“So, at the suggestion of the elders, we would like to have Dird and the others be guides to new residents of the island.”

“Yeah. I'm trying to get Dird-chan and the others into my camp and keep the other girls in check. Anyway, the elders seem to be able to organize things well, so I've left it to them.”

“What about Miron?”

“She looks interested. But she is the one who understands this situation the most, so I don't think there will be any problems either.”

“That may be true.”

“However, I would like Miron to report to the Earth government.”

“I guess we have no choice. Also, Jovia-san, could you please not come out until we at least tell him about the island?”

“I've already frozen her for the time being.”

“As expected of you. Thank you for your help. I think we can arrive tomorrow as well.”

“Take care.”

X X X

Seina looked past the passenger boat moored at the pier and parked it at the edge of the fishing port ahead. He left the cabbit girls behind and hurried to the dock.

(Oh, is that him?)

A boy who looked a little pale and absentminded, perhaps seasick, was sitting on the appointed spot.
(He's just a normal boy…)

“Yes, I guess so. He's not the sportsman type, nor does he work out, if you look at his physique. He's more of a culture club type.”

(I'm guessing he's never been in a fight or had any serious injuries to his hands or face.)

“Considering his age and national origin, he’s a bit fragile. However, since he’ll be equipped with guardian equipment for battle, he can run away if you adjust it properly. Gather the data together and get him used to fighting…”

(The goal is to avoid a quick exit, right?)

“I feel like I'm starting to breathe easier now.” Nayuta said, and Seina slowly approached the boy.

“You must be Kukoma Shou, right?” Seina said to the boy, and he nodded with a blue face.

“Take this medicine. It's specially made and very effective.”

“Oh, thank you.”

Shou said weakly and made a gesture to smell the medicine. It was a reflexive gesture, caused by a queasy feeling. But the clean aroma calmed him down, and he drank it down with the water he had with him.

X X X

“Have you calmed down?”

“Yes. I still feel light-headed, but the nausea is gone.”

“Okay, sorry about the boat again, but let's leave.”

X X X

The boat was sailing across the ocean, with not an island in sight. Shou was looking at the distant scenery to avoid getting nauseous.

(There is a difference between a spaceship and a mere ferry, but I never thought that this time I would be taking a child of the Earth with me…)

Seina drove the ship with a strange feeling for Shou, who is in a similar situation as himself.

End of Part I

This book is a book version of the initial plot for the OVA. Therefore, the contents may differ from the original work.

GIC AIC Bunko

Tenchi Muyo GXP Paradise Start-up Edition

First published October 27, 2023

Author - Masaki Kajishima

Published by EXNOA, LLC

Unauthorized copying, reproduction or reprinting of this book is prohibited.

We will replace any book with a new one.

Printed in Japan

© Masaki Kajishima ©2022 EXNOA LLC